APRIL 24 / MAY 1, 2023

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TIME 100

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TIME100

VOL. 201, NOS. 15–16 | 2023

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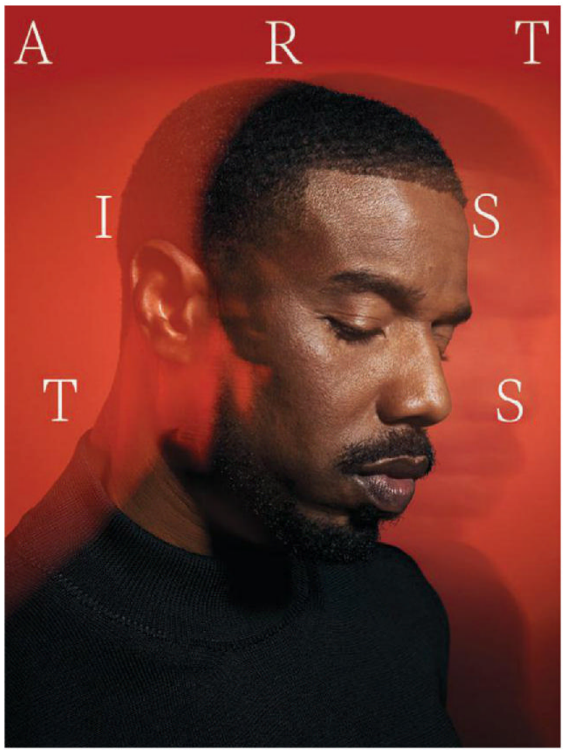

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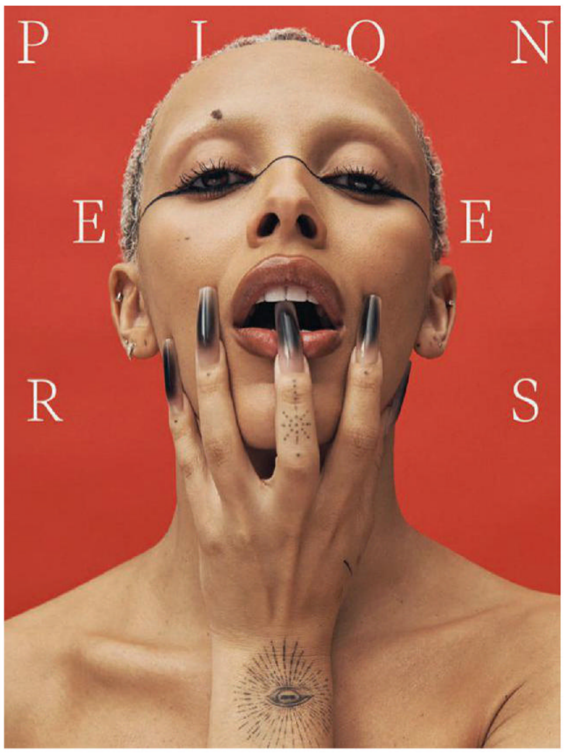
The most influential people in the world

ARTISTS | TITANS | LEADERS | PIONEERS | INNOVATORS | ICONS



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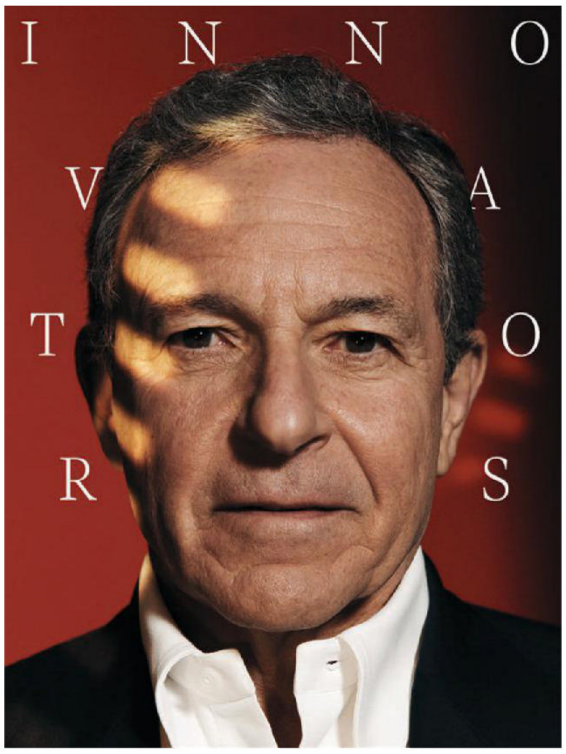

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ARTISTS, PIONEERS, INNOVATORS, ICONS: PAOLA KUDACKI FOR TIME; TITANS: ANTHONY MAULE—TRUNK ARCHIVE; LEADERS: MAXIM DONDYUK FOR TIME

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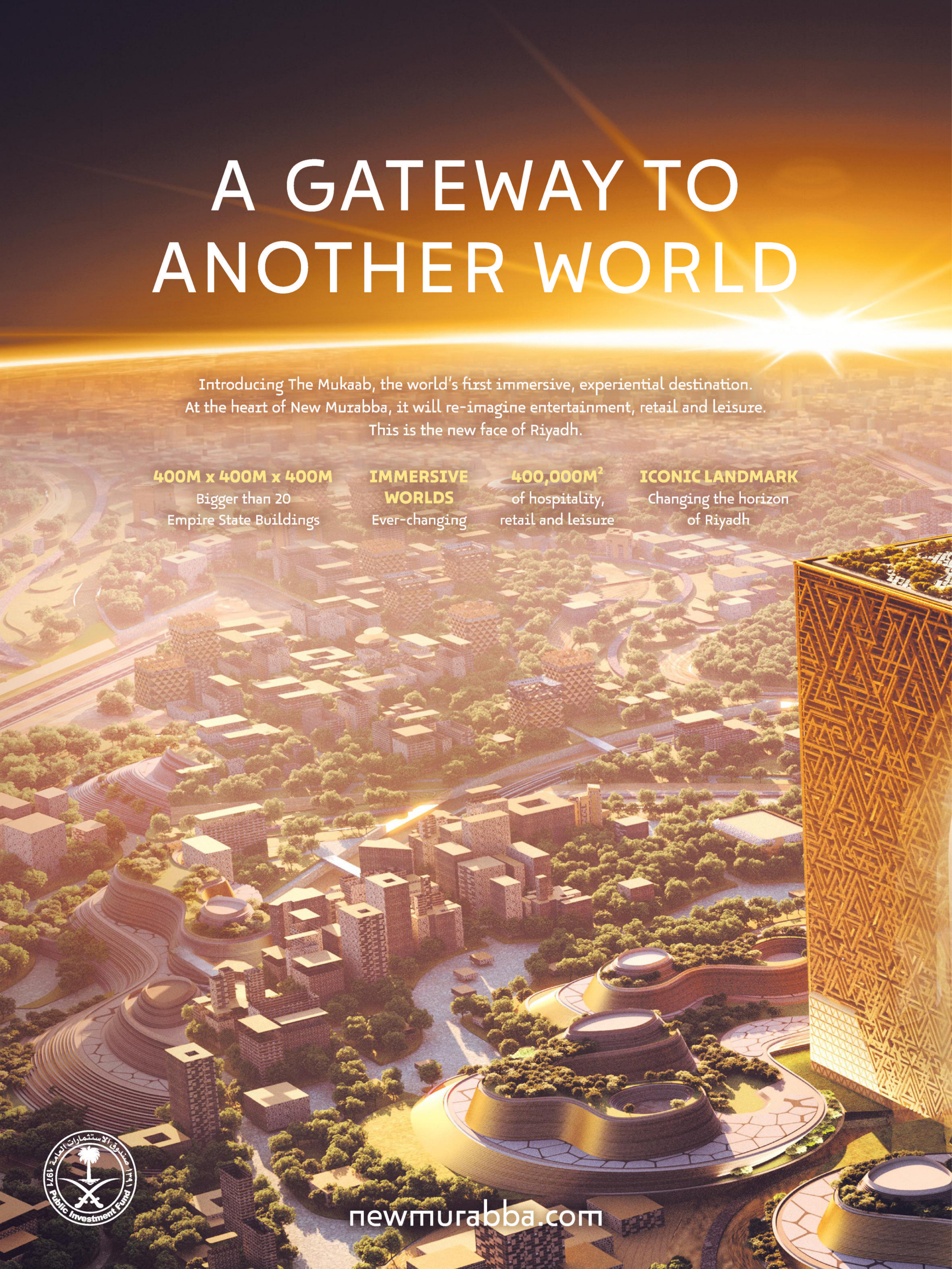

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Behind the list

Members of the TIME100 team put the issue together in the New York City office

ONE OF THE MOST INSPIRING INITIATIVES for us at TIME over the past few years has been convening TIME100 honorees from around the globe. What began nearly two decades ago as an annual list of the world's most influential people has become a community of leaders from across fields, who join together in venues from Singapore and New York City to Dubai and Los Angeles, to spotlight solutions toward a better future. At this year's first gathering of TIME100s, in Davos, Switzerland, the overarching theme was the confluence of interconnected challenges, from climate and public health to democracy and equality.

That is also the central theme running through the 2023 TIME100 list—starting with the most existential of challenges: climate change. This year's list features a record 16 people defending the environment, including the new leaders of Australia, Colombia, and Brazil, all recently elected on a wave of pro-climate sentiment. Also counted among that group are scientists like Andrea Kritcher, whose experiments brought controlled fusion power closer to reality than ever before; Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard, who donated his company to the fight; and environmental-justice advocate Catherine Coleman Flowers.

We also include cultural titans like Angela Bassett, whom singer Tina Turner praises for always having "strength, determination, and big, big dreams," and pioneers like Sam Altman, whose company released the generative artificial intelligence platform ChatGPT, advancing what Airbnb founder Brian Chesky calls in this issue "the most powerful tool ever created." Recognized here too are Ozlem Tureci and Ugur Sahin, mRNA-vaccine trailblazers who led the way on COVID-19 jabs and are now turning to cancer vaccines with exciting results. And we may all someday owe a debt to physicist Edward Reynolds, who oversaw a successful mission to collide a small spacecraft with an asteroid in order to knock the latter off course. A passionate group of activists are also on this list, including Shannon Watts, the founder of Moms Demand Action, whose work continues to gain resonance as gun violence remains a tragically daily threat in America's communities.

Central to confronting the world's shared challenges is the pursuit of truth, an endeavor increasingly under attack. We recognize three journalists who have taken great risks in the course of that duty. Elaheh Mohammadi and Niloofar Hamedi, courageous Iranian reporters, have been jailed over their crucial coverage of the protests against the regime. And the work of Evan Gershkovich, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter facing bogus espionage charges for reporting on Russia, has galvanized supporters of press freedom around the world. We celebrate Evan's commitment to our profession and join in calling for his immediate release.

Edward Felsenthal *Sam Jacobs*

On the covers

THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE
TIME100
MICHAEL B. JORDAN
JENNIFER COOLIDGE
BOB IGER
DOJA CAT

Cover photographs by Paola Kudacki for TIME

Illustration by Edel Rodriguez for TIME

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Reader poll

Shah Rukh Khan, arguably India's most famous actor, received the most votes in the TIME100 reader poll, in which readers voted for the individuals they wanted to see on TIME's annual list of the most influential people. And the editors had the same idea: in this issue, Deepika Padukone writes about Khan's influence.

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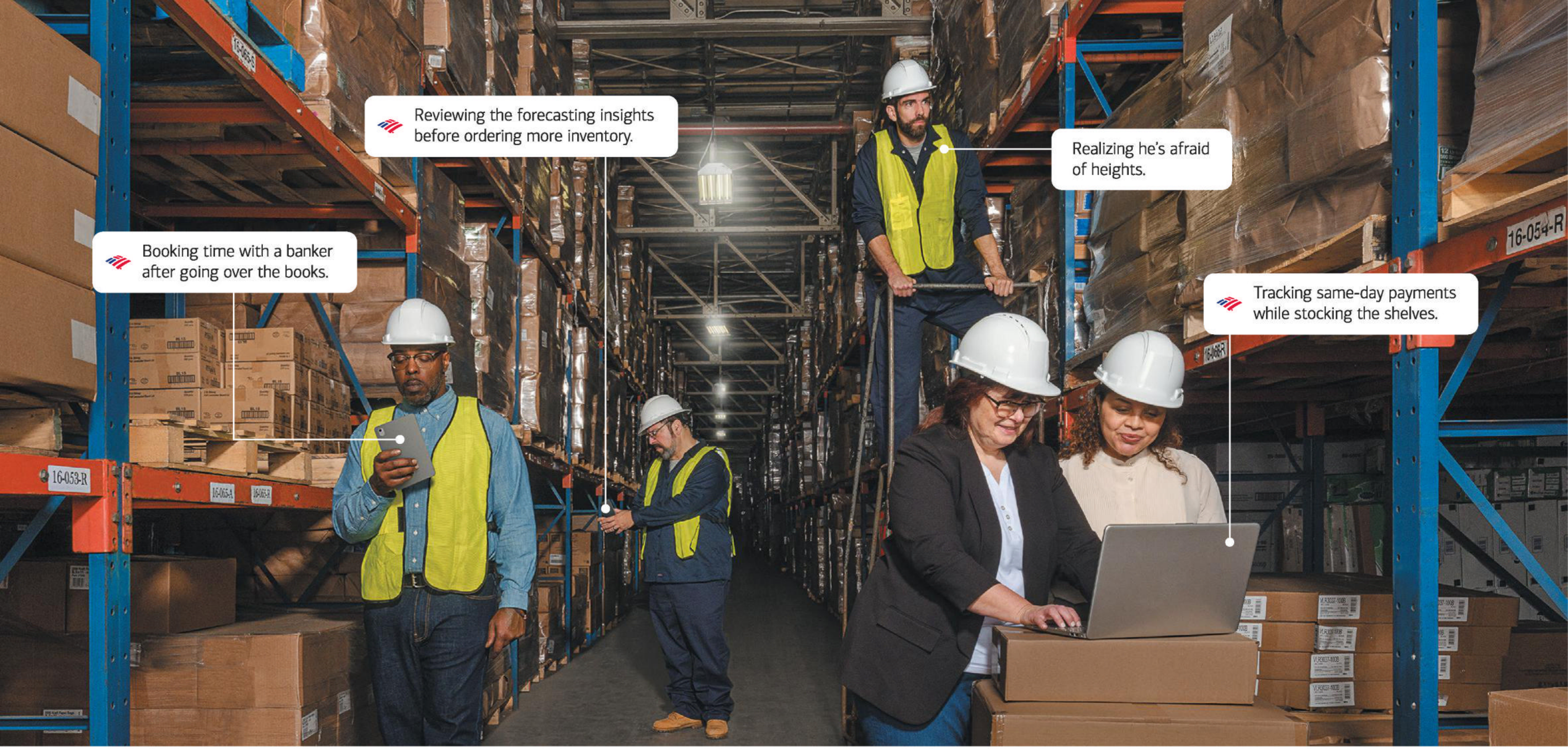
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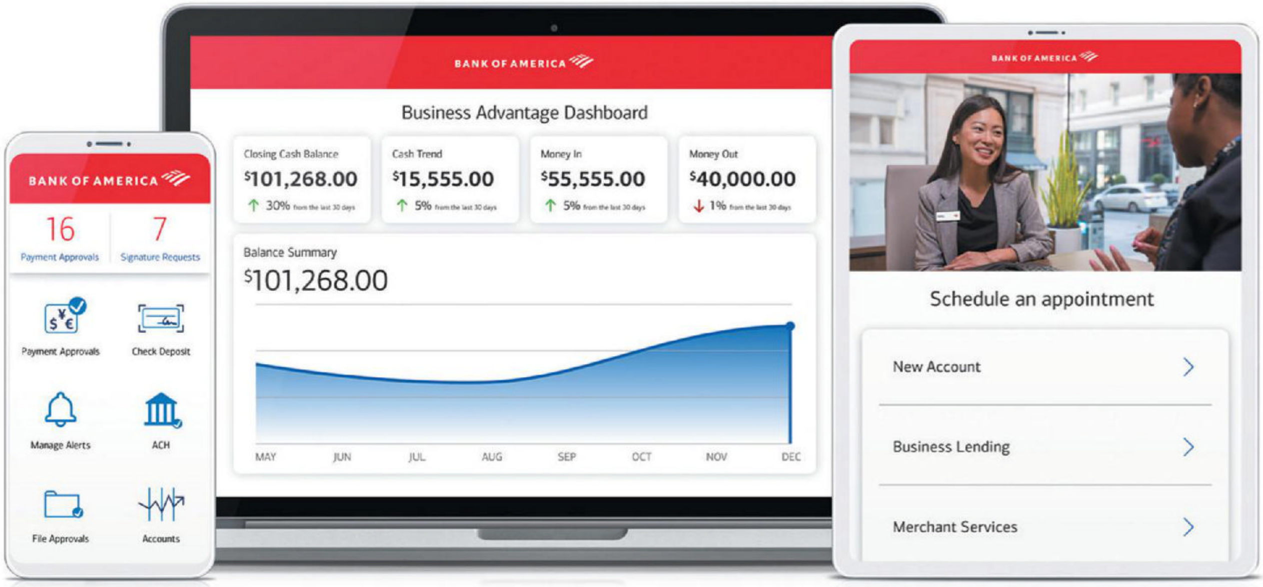

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$101,268.00

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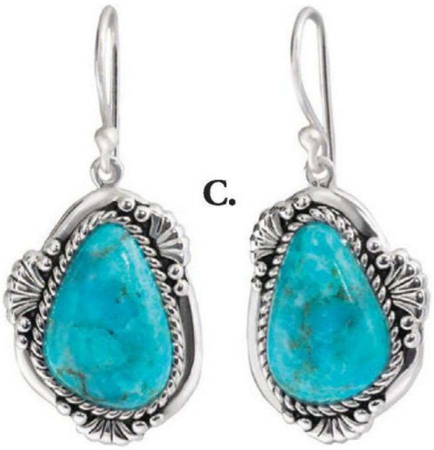
SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

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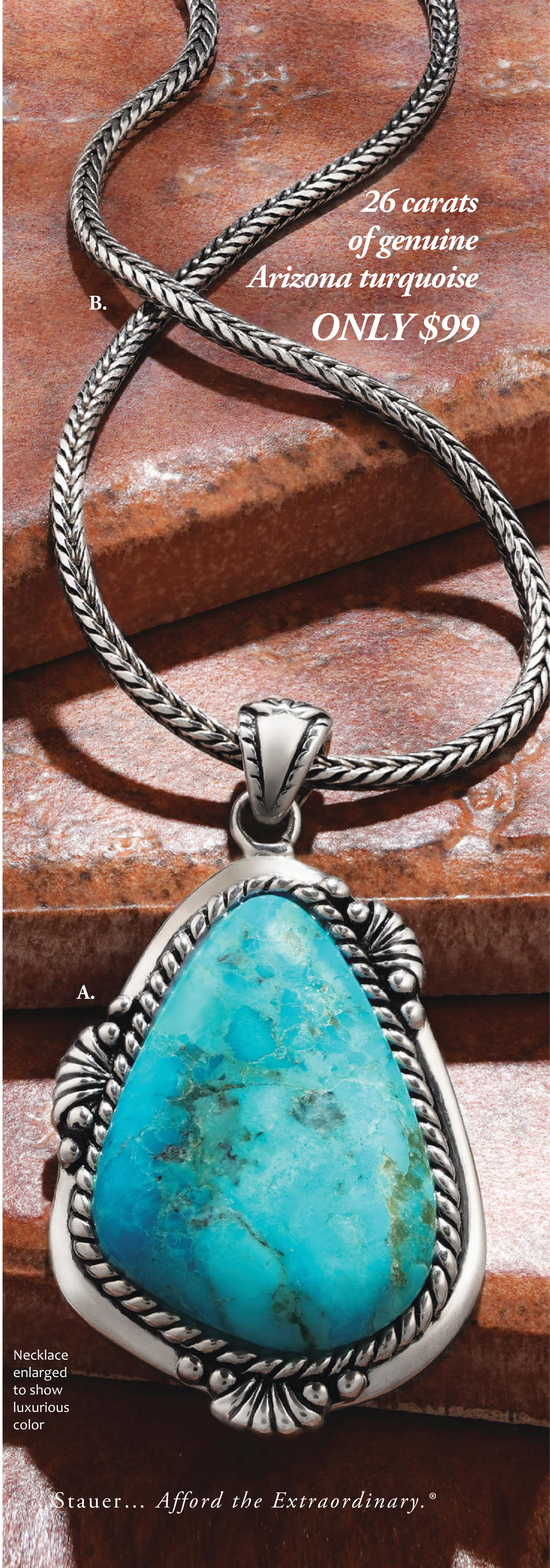

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Trump in the Manhattan Criminal Courthouse in New York City on April 4

The Brief

TRUMP'S TRIALS

BY NANCY GIBBS

The historic—yet entirely predictable—indictment of Donald J. Trump

PHOTOGRAPH BY ED JONES

A Trump supporter tugs on an anti-Trump banner in the protest zone on April 4

AN INDEPENDENTLY wealthy Republican President is tossed out of office after a single term amid massive economic hardship and fears of political violence. There are rumors he was under surveillance or about to be arrested. Relentless, bitter, appalled at his Democratic successor, he stews in his elegant midtown Manhattan suite, plotting his next move. Except it was not Trump Tower but the Waldorf-Astoria, and the ex-President was Herbert Hoover.

But in this case, history neither repeats itself nor rhymes. Hoover not only respected the presidency, he honored it in his postpresidency. When Franklin Roosevelt announced a bank holiday immediately after his Inauguration, Hoover declared he should "receive the wholehearted support of every citizen." A decade later, when 100 million people in Europe were at risk of starving, Harry Truman enlisted Hoover's help managing postwar relief; together they probably saved more lives than any other two figures of the 20th century.

Most ex-Presidents enter post-Oval life bearing scars and regrets. Some take up painting; some lean into atonement. "We all have sorrows," as Jimmy Carter told me. Or as the prayer of confession puts it, Presidents often leave office haunted by what they have done and what they left undone. The libraries, the foundations and philanthropies, even the memoirs, serve both as explanation and expiation, as their legacies settle and harden.

Such public service, whether in the name of politics or penitence, has been more the rule than the exception of modern ex-Presidents, and so it becomes one more norm that Donald Trump breaks as he enters his long expected season of legal accountability. That he would be the first President ever indicted is both historic and predictable—as is the chance he also will be the second, third, and even fourth, in multiple jurisdictions over myriad criminal charges.

The odds were never great that Trump would see his postpresidency as a chance to serve the public good, having not seen the presidency that way. He never showed that he felt the weight of the office and its fateful duties; it was more a profit center, a platform for shakedowns and ego strokes. The postpresidency is a platform for, as he put it, "retribution." Plus, sales.

AND THIS IS the ongoing damage he does, the careless splashing of paint stripper on the majesty of the American presidency. His peers were not perfect; but few were vandals. Other Presidents have tried to salvage campaigns, but none we know of with hush money to a porn star. Other ex-Presidents exalt their faithful supporters—but not when they are serving time for insurrection. Other Presidents have turned their stature into a revenue stream, giving speeches at six figures a pop; it's a safe bet that none thought about merch featuring a mug shot.

Trump's peers were not perfect; but few were vandals

Which brings us to the deeper tragedy. For millions of people who've believed and supported Trump from the start, defending the rule of law requires defending him. Millions of voters are breaking norms too; if his campaign is telling the truth that the money flowed faster the minute Trump was indicted—$4 million in the first 24 hours, a quarter from first-time donors, they say—then we get what we reward. He has gotten this far by tapping into needs and wants that long predate him. The networks running blanket coverage of baggage handlers and motorcades do so in response to perceived demand. They

The Brief is reported by Sanya Mansoor, Olivia B. Waxman, and Julia Zorthian

also help create that demand. The Republican lawmakers who know better yet make him a martyr make cynicism cringe.

As a measure of people's loss of faith in institutions, in courts and judges and prosecutors, in fairness and process and equal justice for all, the entire spectacle is a crime scene. Presidents swear an oath to uphold the laws; former Presidents are granted protections and privileges because they served and are in a position to serve in new ways, and in the past Presidents have used that opportunity to do tremendous global good. The scandal of Donald Trump's passage through public life rests both in what he has done and what he has left undone—so much power to do good, deployed instead to divide and conquer.

Gibbs, a former editor-in-chief of TIME, is the co-author of The Presidents Club

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BY THE NUMBERS

34

Number of felony counts in the indictment

$130,000

Amount Trump lawyer Michael Cohen paid to Stormy Daniels

57 MINUTES

Time Trump spent in the courtroom of Judge Juan Merchan

53%

Americans who believe Trump intentionally acted illegally

56%

Americans who think Trump's indictment was politically motivated

58%

Republicans supporting Trump as their party's 2024 presidential nominee, up from 44% in March

SOURCES: ABC NEWS/IPSOS APRIL 6–7 POLL; REUTERS/IPSOS APRIL 5–6 SURVEY

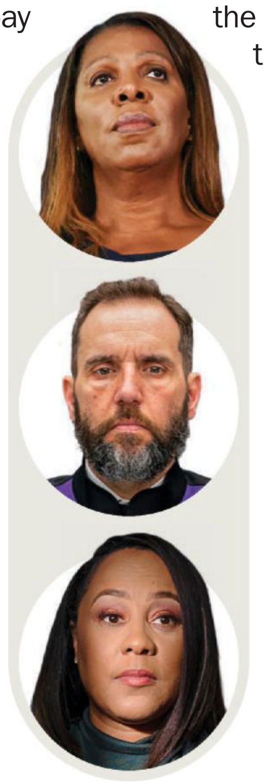
POLITICS

The other investigations into Donald Trump

BY BRIAN BENNETT

The felony charges Donald Trump faces in New York may be just the beginning of his legal travails. Trump is in the sights of multiple other serious criminal investigations, and whatever taboo may have made other prosecutors hesitate before charging a former President has been swept away by Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg's allegations that Trump falsified business records to pay off a porn star before the 2016 election.

Atlanta-area prosecutors are examining Trump's role in efforts to overturn Joe Biden's Georgia victory in the 2020 presidential election, including a January 2021 phone call in which Trump was recorded telling Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to reverse Biden's win in the state.



From top: Letitia James, Jack Smith, and Fani Willis

In that case, Fulton County district attorney Fani Willis assembled a special grand jury last year that heard testimony from high-profile Republicans, including Rudy Giuliani, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. The grand jury also heard from poll workers, technical experts, and state employees. It concluded that there was no widespread voter fraud that would have overturned Biden's win in Georgia, and that some witnesses before it may have lied under oath. Willis has yet to bring charges.

In Washington, D.C., special counsel Jack Smith has been appointed by Attorney General Merrick Garland to investigate both Trump's alleged mishandling of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago Club as well as Trump's actions to reverse the election results leading up to the deadly Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Smith's team is reportedly looking closely at an alleged effort by Trump's allies to gather slates of fake electors from states Trump lost to undo Biden's win. That investigation has included subpoenas for documents from local election officials in Wisconsin and Nevada.

Trump is also facing another legal action in New York. State attorney general Letitia James is suing Trump for allegedly helping misrepresent the Trump Organization's financial position for economic gain. That trial is slated to start in the fall.

Trump says he's done nothing wrong and these cases are political attacks to block him from winning back the White House, in what will be the third straight campaign in which he is also the central issue. This one will unfold beside a second contest, between the rule of law and a politician unbound by it.

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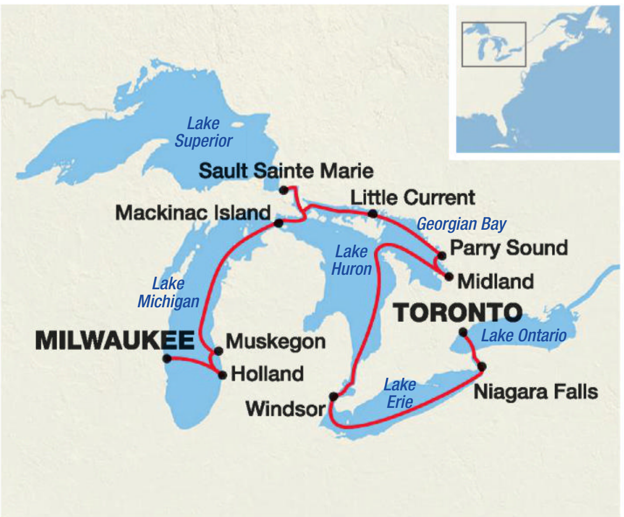
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Where the people who shaped the year were born

By Erin McMullen

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12 **STEVE LACY,** COMPTON, CALIF.
13 **SIMONE LEIGH,** CHICAGO
14 **LEA MICHELE,** THE BRONX
15 **SUZAN-LORI PARKS,** FORT KNOX, KY.
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17 **ZOE SALDAÑA,** PASSAIC, N.J.
18 **WOLFGANG TILLMANS,** REMSCHEID, GERMANY
19 **ALI WONG,** SAN FRANCISCO

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21 **BEYONCÉ,** HOUSTON
22 **SHOU ZI CHEW,** SINGAPORE
23 **PADMA LAKSHMI,** NEW DELHI
24 **DEBORAH LIPSTADT,** NEW YORK CITY
25 **KAREN LYNCH,** WARE, MASS.
26 **PATRICK MAHOMES II,** TYLER, TEXAS
27 **LIONEL MESSI,** ROSARIO, ARGENTINA
28 **ELON MUSK,** PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA
29 **LAURENE POWELL JOBS,** WEST MILFORD, N.J.
30 **GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD,** PACIFIC GROVE, CALIF.
31 **JOHAN ROCKSTROM,** RISINGE, SWEDEN
32 **UGUR SAHIN,** ISKENDERUN, TURKEY
33 **OZLEM TURECI,** SIEGEN, GERMANY

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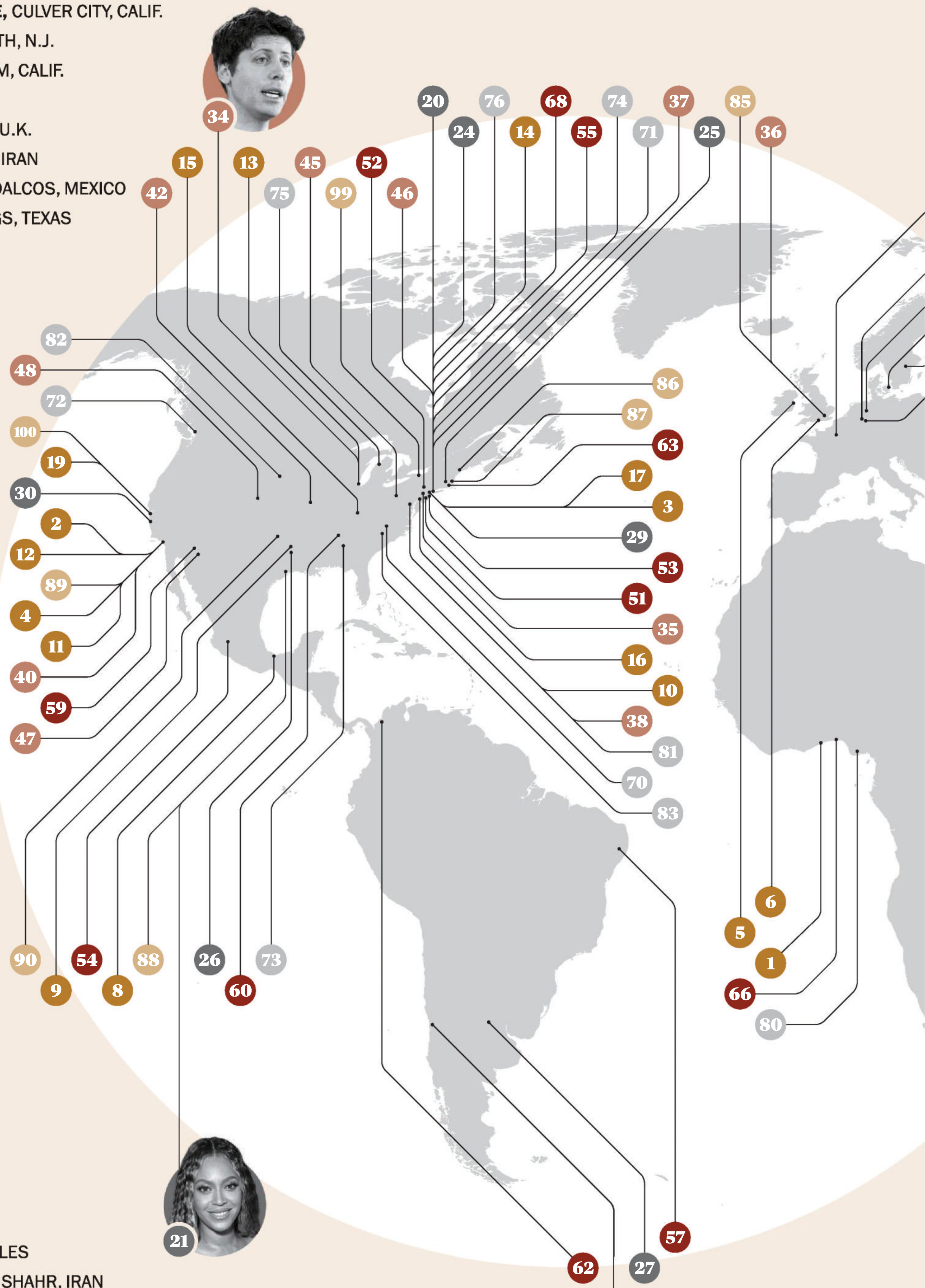
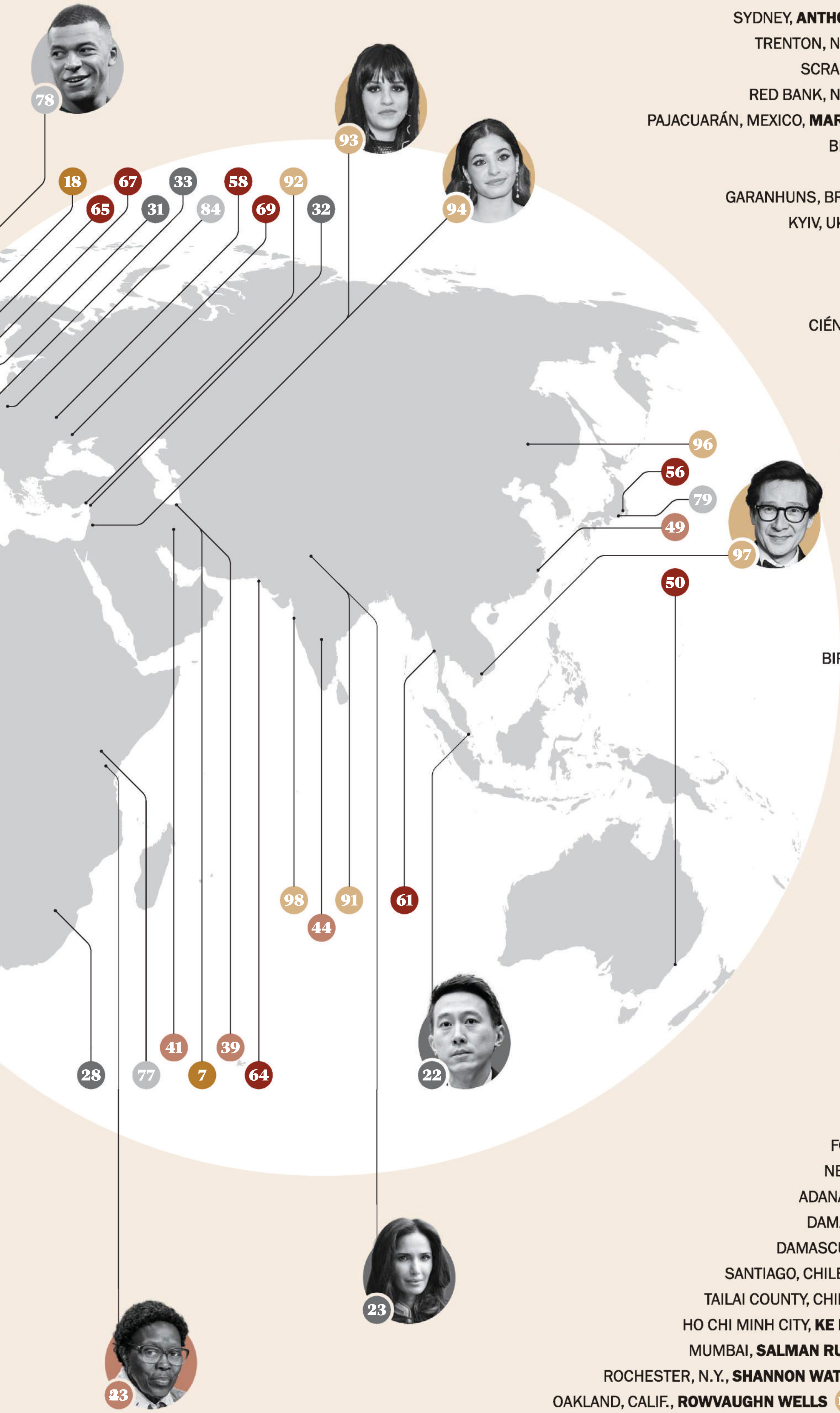


100 *The most influential people in the world*



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With TIME100 reporting by Solcyré Burga, Leslie Dickstein, Mariah Espada, Tara Law, Simmone Shah, and Julia Zorthian

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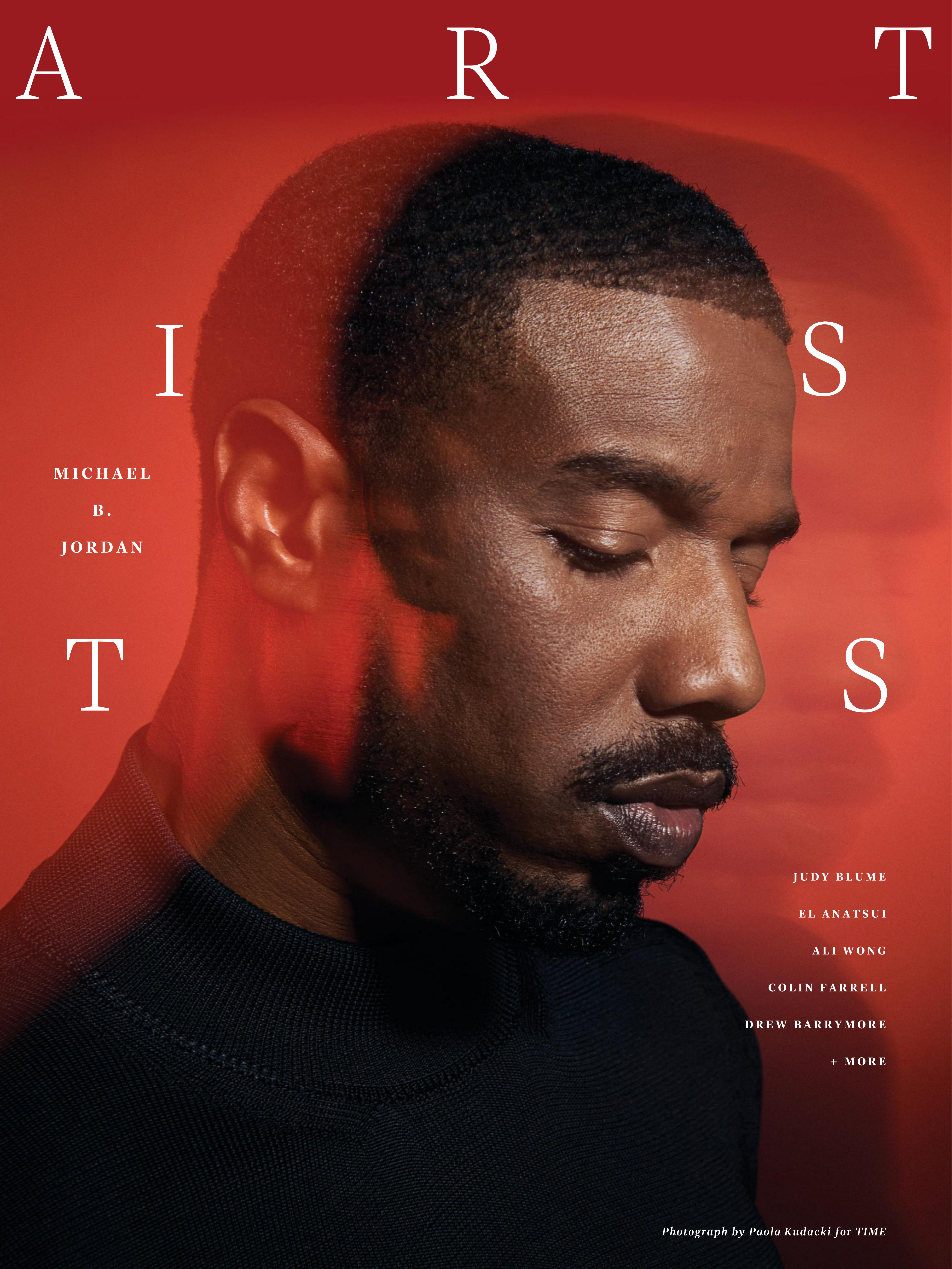


ARTISTS

**MICHAEL
B.
JORDAN**

JUDY BLUME

EL ANATSUI

ALI WONG

COLIN FARRELL

DREW BARRYMORE

+ MORE

Photograph by Paola Kudacki for TIME

MICHAEL B. JORDAN

Forging his legacy

BY RYAN COOGLER

Michael B. Jordan has been a working actor for over 24 years. Four years longer than LeBron James' NBA career, and one year longer than Tom Brady's stint on the NFL gridiron. He has a youthful appearance and spirit, so it's easy to overlook his incredible feat of staying power in an industry that can be so transactional. He has toiled away on network television, cable, independent cinema, midbudget studio fare, and Hollywood blockbusters alike, always with a blue collar approach.

With this year's *Creed III,* he took on a new role—feature-film director—and handled it with aplomb. I knew he would. Because directing is a working person's game. The world sees the press tours, the interviews, and the edited behind-the-scenes footage, but I am deeply familiar with the reality. Marathon conversations with actors. Budget meetings when you realize cutting part of the story is the only way forward. Postproduction hours when your own mistakes laugh at you from the footage. It's like climbing a mountain summit through enemy territory with your heart exposed. But I knew Mike had it in him. Because over that quarter-century of work, nothing was given to him. Everything was earned. And I strongly believe that his best work is still to come.

Coogler is a director and Oscar-nominated producer

DREW BARRYMORE

Effervescent personality

BY JIMMY FALLON

When I say this woman can do anything in the world, I mean, this woman can do anything in the world. You want a beauty line? She did it and crushed it. You want to do a kitchen-appliance line? She did it and crushed it. Do you want to do a home line of furniture? She did it and crushed it. Do you wanna host your own daytime talk show? She did it and is crushing it. Drew Barrymore

PHOTOGRAPH BY ASH BEAN

never sees anything as impossible. And never takes no for an answer. Never afraid. Loves a challenge. Drew is a true role model. She brings joy to everyone she meets. I'm so lucky to call her a friend, and we're all so lucky that we just get to watch this person at this moment in time.

Fallon is an Emmy-winning comedian and the host of The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

JOHNSON: MONICA SCHIPPER—WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES;
SALDAÑA: GARETH CATTERMOLE—GETTY IMAGES FOR DISNEY

Rian Johnson

FILMMAKING MASTERMIND

By Jamie Lee Curtis

It's ALL in his head. What's so disarming is that the complex jigsaw puzzles and character studies and subtle political/sociological statements seen in his films—including 2022's *Glass Onion*—come out of someone with such an outwardly nerdy, gentle demeanor and cackling laugh. He is prolific AF. His voice and ambition and execution are old-school and new wave all at the same time. His mind is as sharp as a knife and, like an onion, you get more flavor and depth with each layer peeled. Nobody else gives audiences both what they know they want and what they don't know they want at the same time quite like Rian. Every movie he's made is warm and funny and loves its characters and their histories. Who else that has made genuinely great noir, sci-fi, and mystery films—not to mention the best *Star Wars* movie—can say that? No one. Hedunnit!

Curtis is an author and Oscar-winning actor

Zoe Saldaña

FIERCELY TALENTED

By Mila Kunis

Zoe Saldaña is the ultimate badass in the entertainment industry, known for her powerful onscreen presence and ability to take on any role with ease. Whether she's kicking butt in *Guardians of the Galaxy,* saving humanity in *Avatar,* or making you bawl your eyes out in *From Scratch,* she's always on top of her game. Zoe has also been a trailblazer for women and people of color in Hollywood, breaking down barriers and advocating for greater diversity and representation. She's not afraid to speak out for what she believes in, and uses her platform to make a positive impact. And let's not forget her killer fashion sense, which makes her a style icon too. In short: Zoe Saldaña is a total boss who can do it all. She's beloved by fans for her talent, attitude, and fierce spirit, but I value her most for her undying friendship, the inspiration she offers as a parent and a partner, and more than anything her unique ability to make any situation a hundred times more fun.

Kunis is an actor

Simone Leigh

SHIFTING THE NARRATIVE

By Venus Williams

My first encounter with Simone Leigh and her artwork occurred over a decade ago, and I will never forget the feelings I experienced in that moment—her art resonated with me in my heart and my core. The unique elegance, well-executed technique, and overall majesty of her work transcend the art form and captivate attention, and the message informing that work is even more powerful.

For generations, Black bodies have been stereotyped, marginalized, and commodified, but Simone completely upends that narrative with her sculptures—centering the experiences of Black individuals and celebrating Black bodies, specifically female bodies, for their beauty, strength, and pride. In doing so, she inspires generations of Black women to feel empowered and to situate their experiences as central to American history and culture. Her presentation at the 2022 Venice Biennale was monumental and won her a Golden Lion, which speaks to her impact not only on the art world, but on generations to come.

Williams, who won seven Grand Slam singles titles, is a philanthropist and entrepreneur

PHOTOGRAPH BY BRAYLEN DION

AGING & ELDERLY CARE
IN JAPAN AND THE US

Populations across the globe are aging rapidly. With advances in medicine and positive, early behavioral changes, such as a healthy diet, non-smoking and staying active, more of us are living longer.

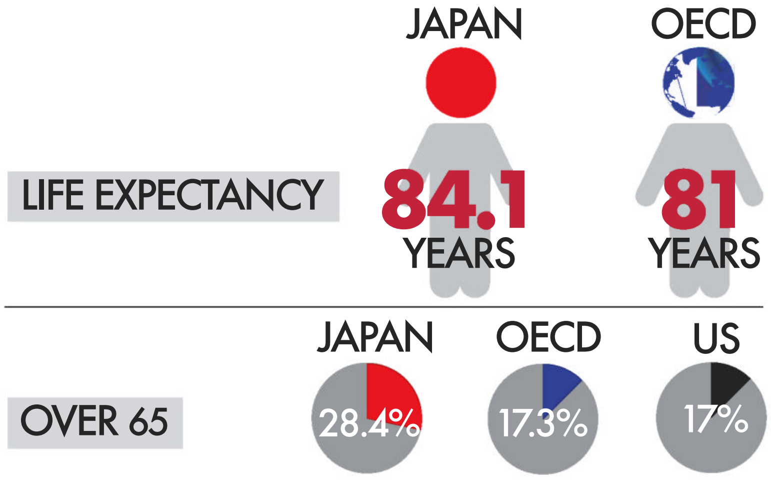
Population aging and the increasing proportion of elderly in society means we can't keep doing the same things we've always done in our approach to aging and the elderly.

How we structure retirement and working, the health and long-term care systems, housing, services such as transport, and even cities themselves, will have to be radically reconfigured.

Japan, the first country to experience rapid aging, has the longest life expectancy at 84.4 years in the world (compared to an OECD average of 81 years), and the percentage of Japanese who are over 65 years of age is currently the highest at 28.4%, compared to the OECD average of 17.3%.

The US, by comparison, has not aged as quickly, but is catching up and is starting to face some of the issues that Japan has grappled with for the last few decades. The US's proportion of over 65s is currently sitting around 17% of its population.

But this is set to dramatically increase in the near future, with that figure expected to rise to 22% by 2040, and even more stark, by 2050 almost 1 in 8 US citizens will be 80 years or older.



THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ELDERLY EMPLOYMENT AND HEALTH

All societies have, for the most part, historically taken care of the elderly as they age. But attitudes to aging have developed differently.

And these attitudes have determined the development of behaviors, systems and processes around everything from a country's approach to labor force participation and retirement to their long-term healthcare policies.

For instance, keeping the elderly in the workforce, fit and healthy for as long as possible, and leading meaningful and purposeful lives, has emerged as key goals across OECD countries such as Japan and in Europe.

Retirement ages in many western countries such as Germany and the UK have been extended so as to encourage labor force participation by the elderly and delay pension fund payouts.

While the US has debated extending the retirement age, so far no move has been made to do so. Still, data from as recent as 2019 show that more than 20 percent of American adults over age 65 were either working or looking for work, compared with 10 percent in 1985.

Japan, however, has the highest effective retirement age of any OECD nation after successively raising it over the last few decades.

This means that many Japanese elderly choose to continue to work even after the time at which they are eligible to receive the pension.

And many countries, such as Japan, also officially encourage companies to retain their elderly workers.

Labor force participation is intimately connected to elderly health and, by extension, healthcare and long-term care. It results in multiple benefits to society. The elderly remain self-supporting through income and continue to be productive and feel useful to society.

There is less pressure on the healthcare system as more active, healthy elderly are apt to need less healthcare for physical or mental ailments, and to delay the need for increasingly expensive long-term healthcare.

And strained, rapidly depleting retirement funds receive some reprieve whilst governments and policy makers explore alternative methods to keep both pension funds and the healthcare system afloat, such as cutting benefits or raising premiums or copayments for health services-something the Japanese have recently done with the more wealthy having to pay 20% copayment, instead of 10%.

Universal Health Care (UHC) in Japan has historically meant less financial burden on the elderly and their families at a time of reduced income and increasing prevalence of chronic or debilitating illness. To a large extent, costs incurred outside the system have been absorbed by the relative wealth of Japan's elderly who have been beneficiaries of generous company pension income resulting from lifelong employment.

This situation is, however, changing as the labor market undergoes its own adjustments in light of labor shortages and the rising preponderance of non-regular workers who do not receive full company benefits.

Nevertheless, for the most part Japanese elderly are not greatly out of pocket for healthcare or even their long-term healthcare needs which are covered by the country's compulsory Long-term Care Insurance (LTCI) scheme.

Conversely, despite the US having the highest expenditure on healthcare, many Americans, especially the elderly, either are not covered or only partly covered - particularly when it comes to elderly care and assisted or long-term care.

And many struggle to pay their medical bills or go bankrupt doing so. One recent study found, for instance, that more than half experience difficulties paying for healthcare and 41% are carrying debt due to lingering medical bills.

American elderly who needs assisted living care are particularly vulnerable because this form of long-term care is not generally covered by Medicare or other elderly health programs such as Medicaid. It is reported that 86% of residents in assisted living facilities fund it themselves through their own assets and savings or, should they have it, long-term care insurance.

One study by the Employee Benefit Research Institute (EBRI) found that a US couple retiring in 2017 at 65 years of age require USD$280,000 in savings just to cover medical expenses - not including long-term care or assisted living.

MAKING THE MOST OF BEING ELDERLY

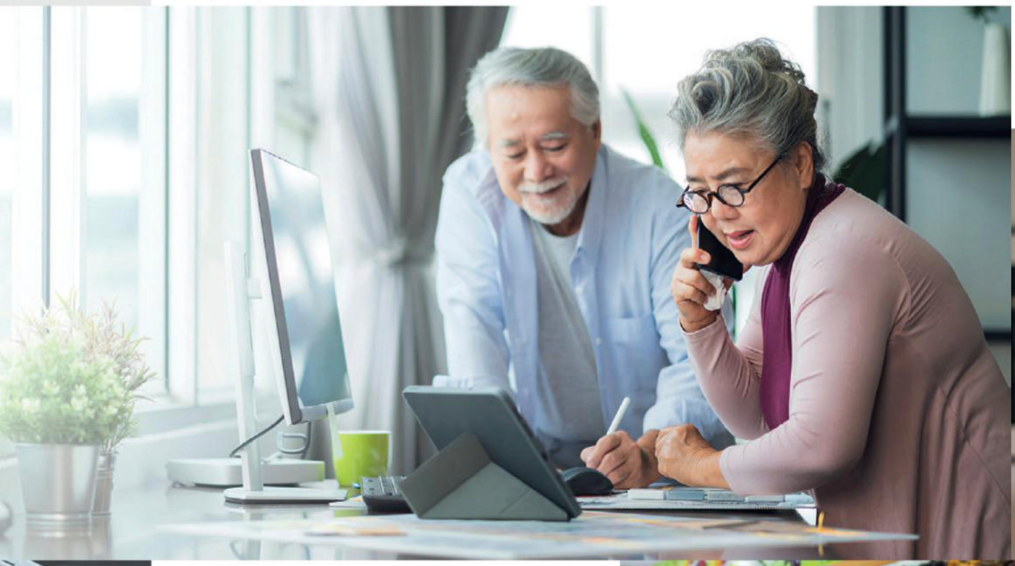
The big difference between the Japanese and the US approach to elderly healthcare is not simply generous pension provisions and universal healthcare (UHC).

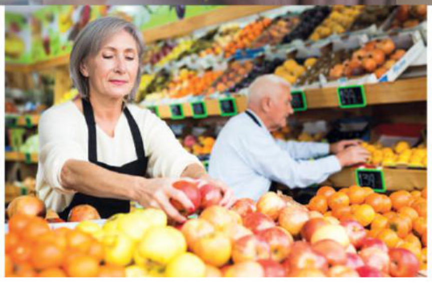
In Japan, long-term healthcare is at least in part driven by a desire to ensure a continuing quality of life in old age, and the system is set up to optimize long life - not simply prolong it or 'treat' it.

And that plays out in the nursing homes and assisted living facilities which are government mandated to have in-house nutritionists, and practices such as strength training and cognitive stimulation, the adherence to seasonal changes, and the observance of cultural festivals and practices, are all designed to bring enjoyment as well as extend physical and cognitive functioning.

> **IN JAPAN, LONG-TERM HEALTHCARE IS AT LEAST IN PART DRIVEN BY A DESIRE TO ENSURE A CONTINUING QUALITY OF LIFE IN OLD AGE, AND THE SYSTEM IS SET UP TO OPTIMIZE LONG LIFE - NOT SIMPLY PROLONG IT OR 'TREAT' IT.**

It is also evident in Japan's Community-based Integrated Care System - the effort to refocus resources from hospital-based care to a coordinated approach to help the elderly, especially those in need of long-term care, to continue to





HOW WE SUPPORT THE ELDERLY IS AS MUCH A MORAL ISSUE AS IT IS A PRACTICAL ONE. MORALLY, IT REFLECTS OUR HUMANITY AND BELIEFS OF EQUALITY, EQUITY, AND RIGHTS, AS WELL AS RESPECT FOR ALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF LIFE STAGE.

live in their homes and enjoy the mental and emotional benefits that it brings.

There is an institutional as well as individual striving for dignity, respect, enjoyment, and life fulfillment in old age that is not so obvious in many western approaches such as those of the US. And it pays off - the very elderly live longer in Japanese care facilities than their OECD counterparts.

Long-term care necessitates the deployment of care workers. The lack of availability of care workers is a global problem especially given that many elderly desire to age in-home, but also live alone.

Where the elderly does live with family, a great deal of in-home care is being shouldered by a (usually female) family member. This is the case both in Japan and the US, but in Japan the structures are arguably more supportive.

And it is largely unfunded, causing a double financial burden on families. Loss of income from both the elderly, who have left the workforce, and the informal care worker - who can't hold down a job and perform the taxing labor of caring for elderly parents, compound the high cost of in-home care.

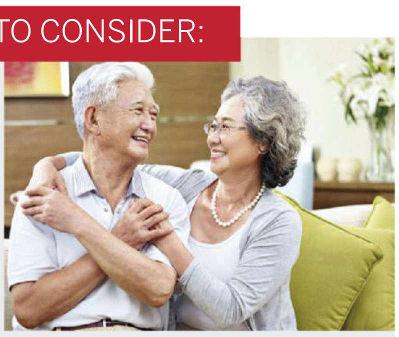
ADAPTING TO AN AGING WORLD

How we support the elderly is as much a moral issue as it is a practical one. Morally, it reflects our humanity and beliefs of equality, equity, and rights, as well as respect for all, irrespective of life stage.

Practically, there is an urgent need, in light of the rapidly changing dynamics of aging societies, to redirect resources - labor, finance, innovation and technology - and reorient social structures like living and working arrangements to front-run the challenges that will reverberate through all levels of society, and from which it may prove difficult to recover if left unaddressed.

Healthcare needs to adapt to an aging population, but so do our ideas on retirement and working.

MORE SPECIFICALLY WE NEED TO CONSIDER:



- Focusing more resources on a community based long-term care approach to cater to the majority of elderly who live or wish to live at home in the US and other countries.
- An increased focus on innovation and bringing to bear new technology to help overcome labor shortage, drive efficiencies, and improve safety in the system, and to empower the elderly to have more control over their environment.
- More and better trained and compensated care workers, especially for the in-community elderly who in particular suffer mental or physical disability or who live alone.
- Ways to increase funding and training of informal carers - some countries in Europe have made some headway on this.
- New approaches to tackling the financing of healthcare head-on to relieve the financial pressure on families as well as the government, for instance, through models such as Japan's Long-term Care Insurance scheme.
- Rethinking retirement and working, including deferring retirement age and extending the working lives of the elderly.
- Finally, our attitude to aging and the elderly needs to evolve. We will need to jettison some of our preconceptions about what it means to be elderly to help us evolve how we support them in the long-term.

SOMPO
HOLDINGS
YEARS AHEAD

Austin Butler

POWERFUL PERFORMER

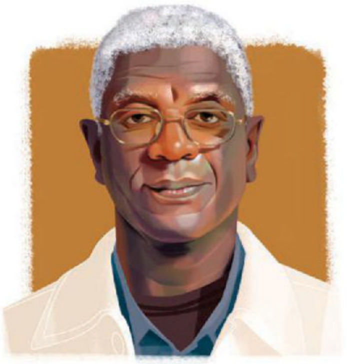
By Angela Bassett

The first time I met Austin Butler, we were both starting to find our grooves in what promised to be a busy awards season. We connected in a fleeting moment, one of many when we would share a hug and warm words. Despite all that swirled around him, Austin opened his heart to new friends. I was fortunate to be one of them.

I watched *Elvis* with a deep appreciation for all the work I knew Austin put into his performance. A lot goes into an actor's finding their way into an icon, not pretending to be them but offering a perspective on the artist as we perform slices of their story. You walk away from that set forever changed. Your hope is that when people see the film, they don't see you—they see an artist's journey through a different lens. Austin accomplished this with a brilliantly nuanced performance.

On the evening of the Oscars, with Austin seated next to me, I understood intimately what he felt when it was time to learn if he would climb those stairs to the stage. So, I took his hand and held it softly as the winner was announced. Although his name wasn't called, Austin is no less a winner. The time had come for Austin to say goodbye to *Elvis* as he began to embrace an infinite universe of possibilities as an actor. I can't wait to see what he brings us next.

Bassett is an Oscar-nominated actor



El Anatsui

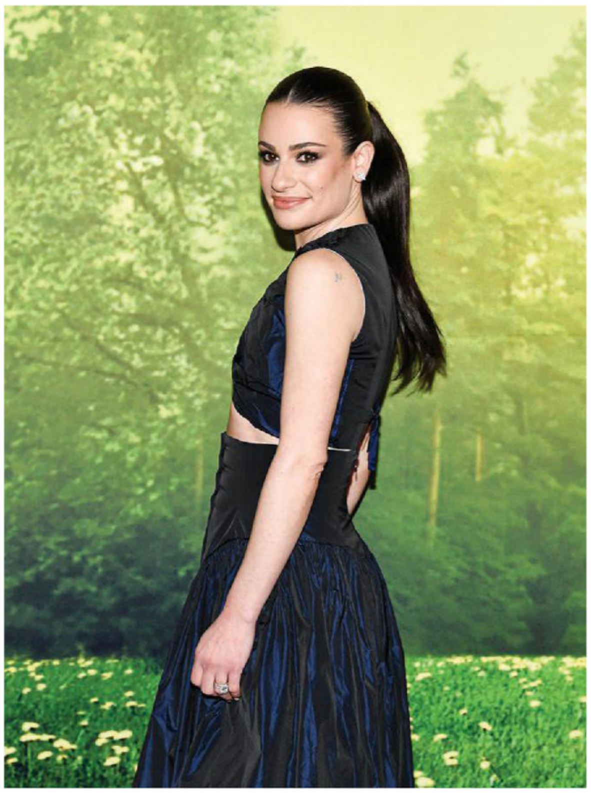
VISIONARY SCULPTOR

By Chika Okeke-Agulu

El Anatsui is one of the most impactful artists of our time. As a sculptor, he shows an incomparable capacity to experiment with his materials, medium, and process. El collects diverse materials, puts them aside in his studio for years, and then returns to them intermittently, until he figures out the right language for inventing completely new sculptural forms. The breathtaking combination of experimental rigor and inspired vision turns such unassuming materials as printer's plates or liquor-bottle caps into the magnificent constructions and compositions displayed around the world, from a recent solo show in Seoul to his upcoming commission at London's Tate Modern.

Less public, but just as important, is El's unflinching generosity of spirit. As his career grew, so has his remarkable propensity to support not just other artists but also individuals, families, and institutions in his community in Nsukka and across Nigeria. And he does all this without fanfare, as if it is only but a life mission. That, for me, is the mark of greatness.

Okeke-Agulu is an artist, critic, and art historian at Princeton and the author of El Anatsui: The Reinvention of Sculpture



Lea Michele

TOUR DE FORCE

By Ryan Murphy

Funny Girl is my favorite musical of all time, and for over a decade I flirted with reviving it on Broadway. Ultimately, I couldn't commit for one reason: the long shadow of Barbra Streisand, who originated the role of Fanny Brice. I was afraid of it. Lea Michele wasn't afraid. I couldn't believe it when I attended my friend's opening night with Jonathan Groff. JG and I were both in tears and were absolutely astounded as Lea received multiple standing ovations, literally bringing the house down. Her acting: impeccable and nuanced. Her voice: full of joy and despair. She had done the impossible: made Fanny her own, to great critical and commercial acclaim. Older, wiser, stronger, Lea interjected the classic with a new burst of modernity and something singular: here she was playing a survivor and killing it because she herself had survived something. Many things. At age 36, she reinvented herself yet again. She was humble in this triumph and this comeback, and didn't take for granted being the toast of Broadway. In this role, Lea Michele is truly the greatest star.

Murphy is an Emmy-winning producer and director

BUTLER: ROWBEN LANTION—GETTY IMAGES/BAFTA; ANATSUI: COURTESY EL ANATSUI, OCTOBER GALLERY, AND JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY; MICHELE: EVAN AGOSTINI—AP

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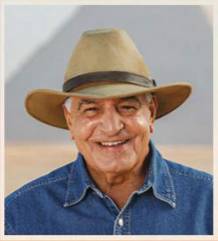

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Colleen Hoover

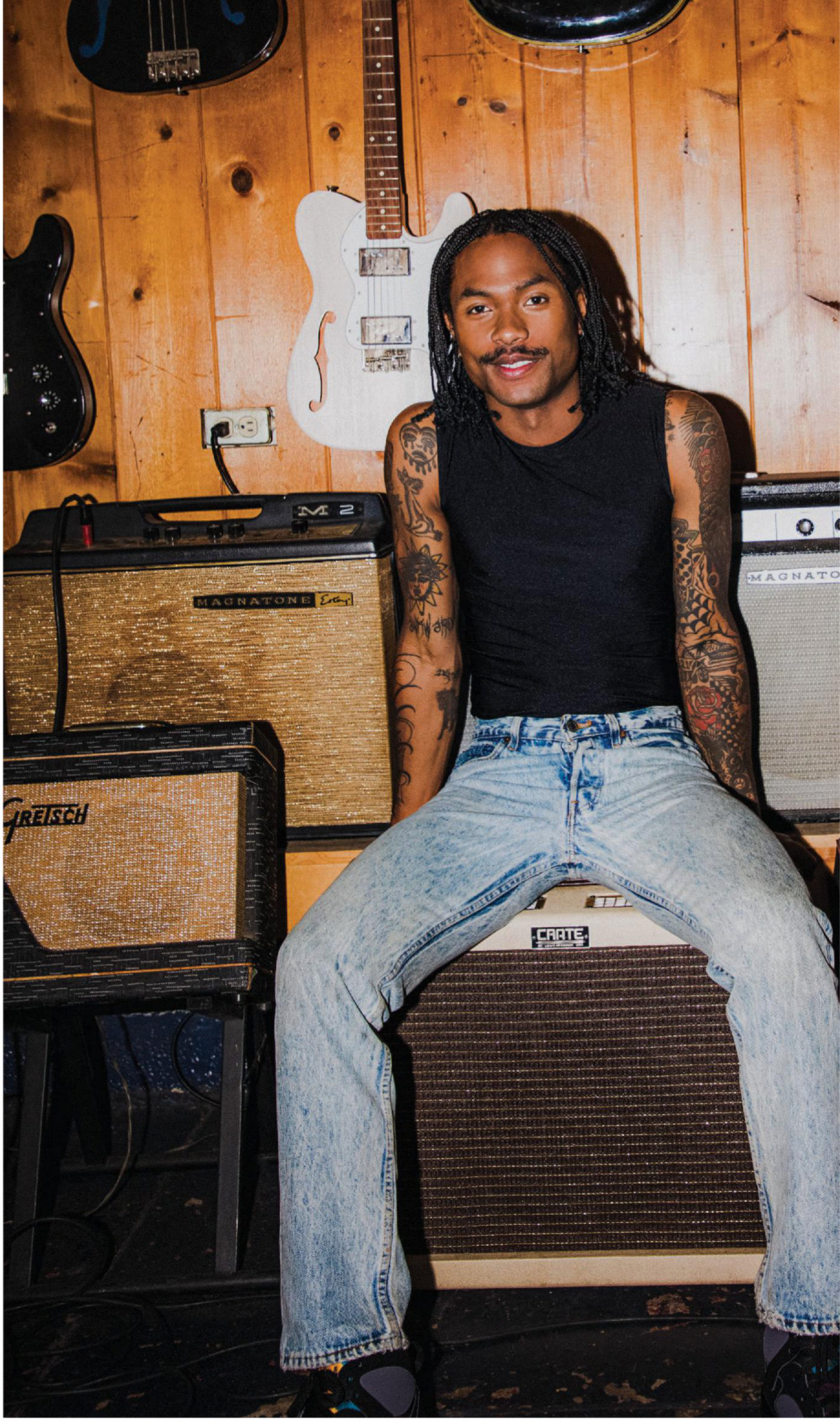
BEST SELLER

By Jenna Bush Hager

If you're paying attention you will see Colleen Hoover's books everywhere you look, and more specifically, young people devouring them. Like many, I tore through her 2016 book *It Ends With Us* on a flight. Colleen has mastered emotionally fraught narratives—and women are paying attention. Whether you count yourself a Colleen Hoover fan or not, her influence on the publishing industry is undeniable. There are more than 20 million copies of her 24 books in circulation. In 2022, she outsold the Bible. At one point last year, six of her titles simultaneously held top-10 spots on the New York *Times* paperback fiction best-seller list.

And thanks to her rise on #BookTok, she has motivated an entire generation of readers back to bookstores and libraries. But Colleen—who like me is a Texan—hailing from small town Sulphur Springs, has not forgotten her home. She is also paying it forward with her nonprofit bookstore, the Bookworm Box, on Main Street and a literary festival Book Bonanza in Texas for up-and-coming writers.

Bush Hager is the co-host of NBC's Today With Hoda & Jenna *and founder of Read With Jenna*



STEVE LACY

Charting his own path

BY CHLOE BAILEY

What I admire most about Steve Lacy is that he's always himself—a good person who loves to make music. In a world where everything's so contrived, he just wants to nerd out and be free, and that makes him a force to be reckoned with.

From his performances onstage to his clothes to his lyrics, he's open to expressing what's real. That's why people gravitate toward him so much, because in a time when everybody's

PHOTOGRAPH BY KEVIN AMATO

trying to be what other people want them to be, he's saying, "I'm gonna make music—and if you like it, that's cool." He has inspired me to be fearless, to trust that whoever my music is meant for will find it.

He has the biggest, warmest smile. And he reminds me that you don't need to have all the bells and whistles to make good music. What you need is yourself, your ideas, and your heart.

Bailey is a musical artist and actor

HOOVER: JAKE DOCKINS; TILLMANS: EUGENE GOLOGURSKY—GETTY IMAGES FOR THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART; BLUME: HELEN HEALEY—NBC/GETTY IMAGES

WOLFGANG TILLMANS

Prescient photographer

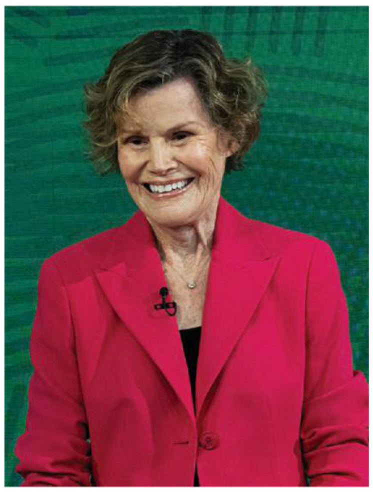
BY JEREMY O. HARRIS

The first time I saw one of Wolfgang Tillmans' photos, I was in Chicago. Standing in the center of a gallery's dance floor, I tasted what seemed like the sea as my tongue slipped from a man's mouth and found its way to his neck. Even at 6 ft. 4 in., I was still dwarfed by Tillmans' work.

I didn't know this then, but Tillmans has the unique ability to take his viewer through histories and timelines both real and imagined, as seen in his recent traveling retrospective, "To Look Without Fear." He brings us into his memories and by extension brings us closer to our own.

Tillmans has also documented pop culture's most significant figures, from Kate Moss to Frank Ocean. In doing so he is shaping our present, past, and future culture with that same liminality that makes his angular, intimate portraiture feel like artifacts of both his past and ours.

Harris is a Tony-nominated playwright



Judy Blume

REVOLUTIONARY

By Molly Ringwald

The coming-of-age films I am known for from the '80s seemed revolutionary, at the time, for centering on a young female protagonist. In truth, Judy Blume was doing it long before in her groundbreaking young-adult fiction—now popular in onscreen adaptations. Judy's writing helped me to honestly play a teenage girl because her books helped me become one. At a time when no one was chronicling the monumental minutiae occupying a young person's brain—body shame, bullying, grief—there was no subject that Judy wasn't up for exploring in her books. Even the most taboo subjects of the time—menstruation and masturbation—were examined, helping millions of young women to enter young adulthood a lot more informed and a little less afraid. Her books have been banned many times in various places over the years, since there are always people for whom the thought of an empowered young woman's autonomy over her mind and body is objectionable. But good books will find their way into kids' hands, and I'm so grateful they found mine.

Ringwald is an actor

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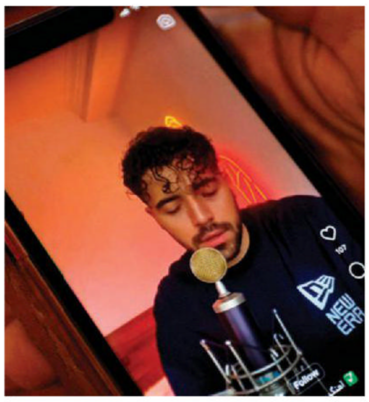


Shervin Hajipour

VOICE OF IRAN

By Marjane Satrapi

Nobody makes a masterpiece knowing they're making one. In late September, Shervin Hajipour sat down at his piano in his apartment in Iran. Protests had raged across the country for more than a week after the death of Mahsa Amini, arrested for how she wore her headscarf. But people were angry about so much more. On Sept. 28, Shervin posted a song that, miraculously, managed to say what.

Shervin wrote "Baraye" ("Because of") with the words of fellow Iranians, who had gone online to list the ways their lives had become intolerable. The posts appear on the screen as he sings. In "Woman, life, freedom!" the uprising had already found a slogan. Now it had an anthem.

Shervin was arrested within 48 hours and held for several days. In February, "Baraye" was awarded the first Grammy for Best Song for Social Change. But the ultimate validation is on the streets of our country every day and every evening, as his aching melody rises from open car windows. He became the voice of Iran.

Satrapi is an artist and Oscar-nominated filmmaker

SALMA HAYEK PINAULT

Generous spirit

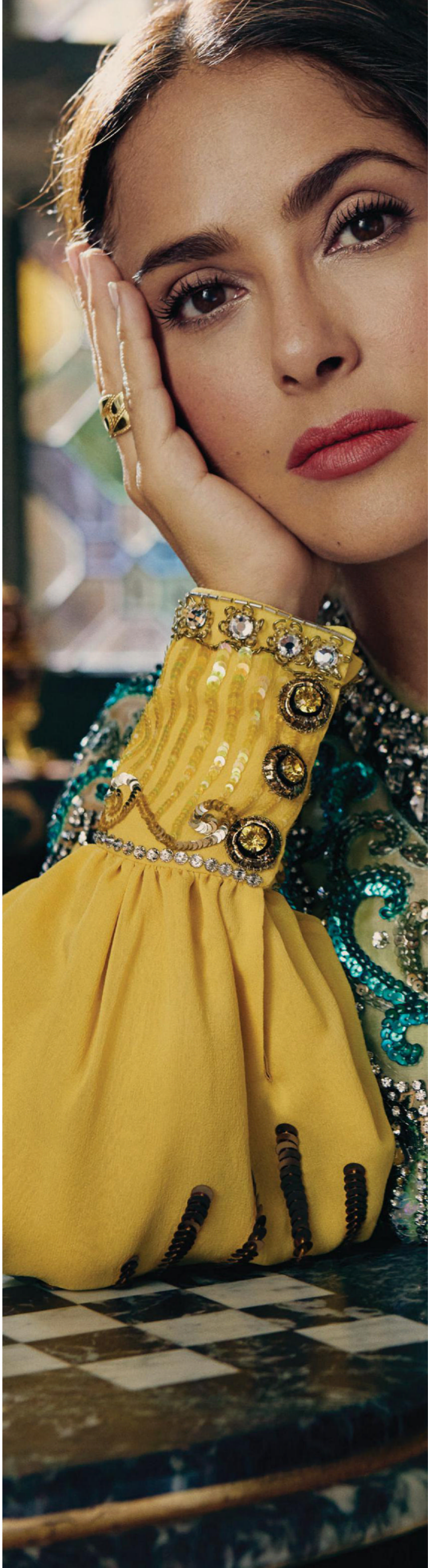
BY PENÉLOPE CRUZ

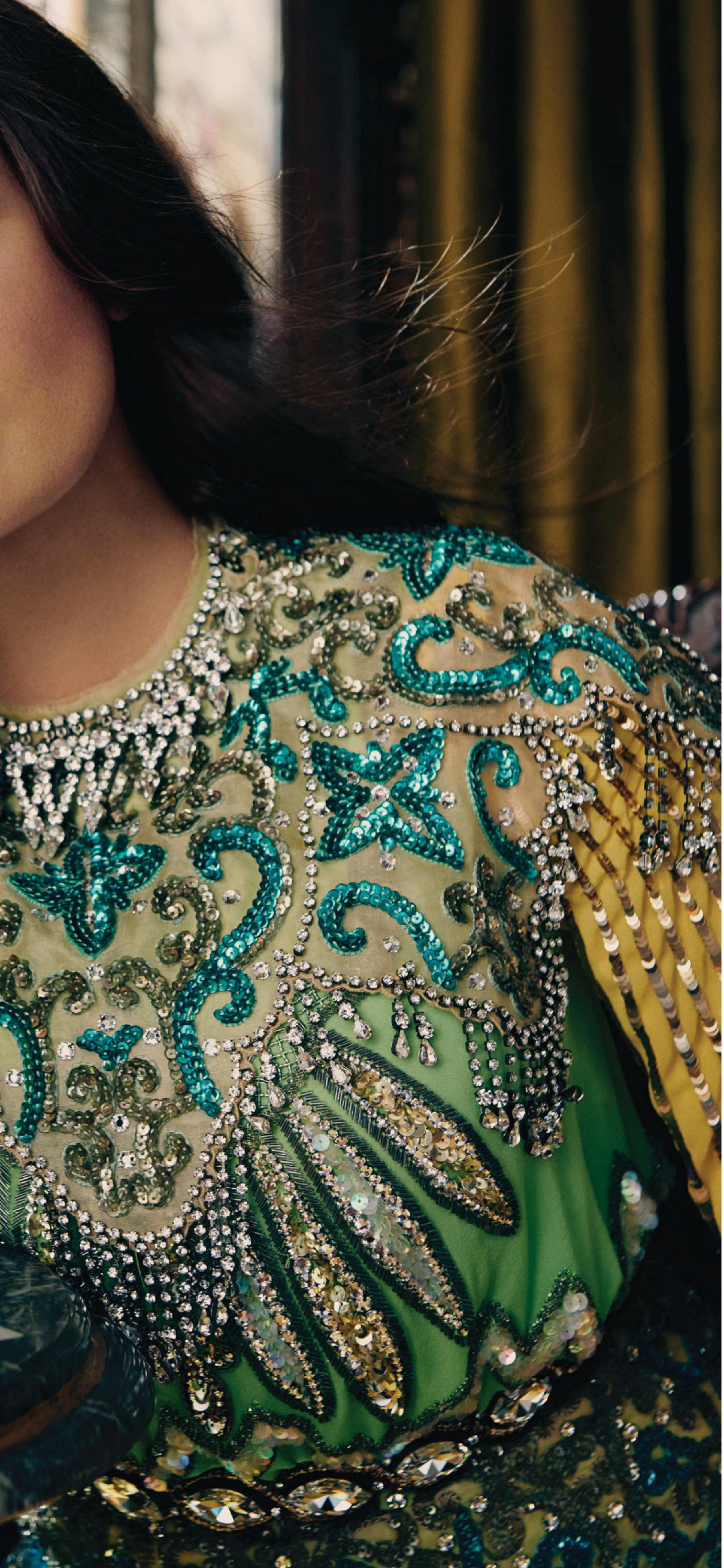
I originally met Salma Hayek Pinault when I had my first offer to do an American film. I knew almost no one in the U.S., but she picked me up from the airport and took me to her house. Meeting her was like reuniting with a sister you hadn't seen in a long time. It was 100% trust from our first conversation. She's incredibly generous —it's something she extends to everyone, but especially other women.

Salma is a great observer and feels everything deeply. She's strong yet sensitive, and she can read people very well. That's what makes her a great actor, her ability to put herself in someone else's shoes, from her breakthrough portrayal of Frida Kahlo to her most recent performance as Maxandra in *Magic Mike's Last Dance.* Her huge heart, great intelligence, and charisma are a winning combination, but the thing I'm most proud of is that she's always entirely herself. As one of the first Latinas working in Hollywood, she's opened so many doors for people who followed. She is a total revolutionary, and there's still so much she will do.

Cruz is an Oscar-winning actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBBIE FIMMANO





Aubrey Plaza

CAPTIVATINGLY COOL

By Amy Poehler

We are all watching Aubrey Plaza and can't take our eyes off her. I met Aubrey, a deeply versatile actor and producer, almost 15 years ago on *Parks and Recreation,* where she played the droll and mischievous intern April Ludgate. I knew two things immediately: I was working with a determined and profoundly talented woman with big plans, and I had met a dear friend for life.

Her work over the past decade has been acutely truthful and always surprising—whether conveying fear-based choices in *Emily the Criminal,* manic breakdowns in *Black Bear,* chilly secret keeping in *The White Lotus,* or whatever big and ballsy swing is up next in Francis Ford Coppola's *Megalopolis.*

Aubrey loves an outsider. She roots for the underdog. She befriends the misunderstood. She has learned the glorious freedom that comes from not wanting your approval. But don't mistake that cool demeanor as ambivalence. She cares deeply about her craft and her friends and has become one of the most interesting actors working today. Plus, she speaks Spanish and can hit a fastball.

We are all watching Aubrey Plaza, but she is watching us. And she is on to you.

Poehler is a writer, producer, and Emmy-winning actor

HAJIPOUR: KHALED DESOUKI—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; HAYEK PINAULT: TRUNK ARCHIVE; PLAZA: EMMA MCINTYRE—FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

Neil Gaiman

WORLD BUILDER

By James McAvoy

What I admire most about Neil Gaiman is his belief in the necessity of storytelling: it's something we need on a DNA level.

I first read a book by Neil when I was 14 years old. It was *Good Omens,* his brilliant 1990 collaboration with Terry Pratchett. Two decades later, I got the opportunity to star in the 2013 BBC radio adaptation of *Neverwhere.* I remember feeling so excited that I was being inducted into his sphere of influence—one that has only grown. It's fantastic to see Neil's work gain new fans, most recently with the Netflix adaptation of his award-winning comic-book series *The Sandman.*

Neil's point of entry into the storytelling realm is darkly fantastical and occultish. The way he writes makes you feel like you're being let in on a massive secret. His worlds are hidden, shrouded in mystery, yet they're never that far removed from ours. They're always just barely within your peripheral vision—under the street or in a dark building or at the end of a lane. He brings dreamscapes to life.

McAvoy is an actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALEXIS HUNLEY

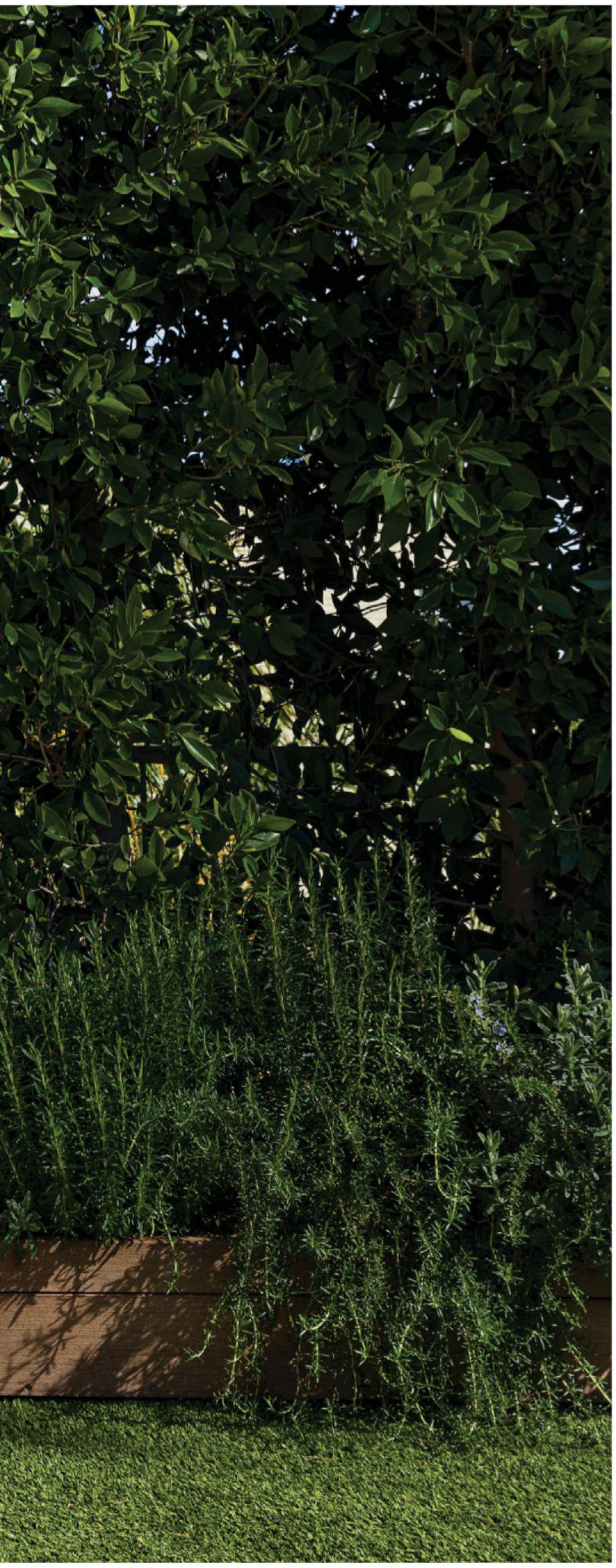
ALI WONG

Unbridled comedian

BY RANDALL PARK

I met Ali Wong at a party shortly after I graduated from UCLA. She was still a student there and had just joined the on-campus Asian American theater company that I had co-founded back when I was an undergraduate. We've been friends ever since.

The thing I admire most about Ali is her strong sense of self. She knows what she wants and doesn't want, and she advocates for herself in a way that I find incredibly inspiring. She loves stand-up—that's the most important thing to her, creatively. She's all about

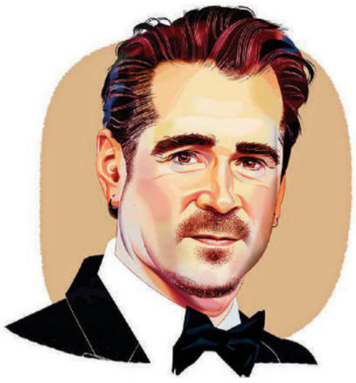


her family, her friends, and her art. She doesn't get distracted by fame or money. And when she commits to something, she gives it everything, every time.

Ali values honesty, in her work and her life. She's unafraid of digging deep, asking the hard questions to others and herself. I think that's why she's one of our greatest comedians and more importantly, to me at least, a great friend. And of course, she always makes me laugh.

Park is an actor, writer, and director

GAIMAN: MAMADI DOUMBOUYA; WONG: TRUNK ARCHIVE; FARRELL: FRAZER HARRISON—GETTY IMAGES; PARKS: ERIK CARTER—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX



Colin Farrell

AN ACTOR'S ACTOR

By Nicole Kidman

When Colin Farrell and I starred together in the 2017 films *The Beguiled* and *The Killing of a Sacred Deer,* I felt like I had found both my knight in shining armor and my partner in crime.

He was very emotionally open with me, and I'm very protective of him. I admire his tenacity, his resilience, and his great sense of humor. He's got such an Irish kind of sensibility.

Colin is an actor's actor. He's not frightened of tone or genre, and he's very present. Ego is not attached to his performances. You really see that in the longevity of his nearly 30-year-long career.

Colin has always been about doing the work and not about building up his stardom or legacy. As a result, he's risen to the top—and this year, he received his first Oscar nomination for his incredible performance in *The Banshees of Inisherin.*

It's lovely to see someone who's been so resilient and committed and pure finally being lauded for what he does. He also seems to look younger every year.

Kidman is a producer and an Oscar-winning and Emmy-winning actor

Suzan-Lori Parks

DYNAMIC PLAYWRIGHT

By Sterling K. Brown

When I saw Suzan-Lori Parks' Pulitzer-winning play *Topdog/Underdog* in 2001, I thought, "This is the greatest thing I've ever seen. If I ever get a chance to work with her, I'll be in a good place."

Over a decade later, my time playing Hero in her *Odyssey*-inspired play *Father Comes Home From the Wars* confirmed my suspicions. Working with her was an absolute joy—she's an artist of the highest passion. She puts everything of herself into everything that she does.

Suzan-Lori is a playwright who thrives on collaboration; she's not trying to force people like pawns on a chessboard. She's looking for a visceral reaction to her words, and if they don't fully land, she goes back to the drawing board until those words impact her soul and the souls of her collaborators.

She's now performing in her pandemic-fueled *Plays for the Plague Year,* and her musical adaptation of the 1972 film *The Harder They Come* just had its premiere in February. The theater world knows Suzan-Lori exceptionally well, but the world at large should recognize the genius that she is. She should be a household name.

Brown is an Emmy-winning actor

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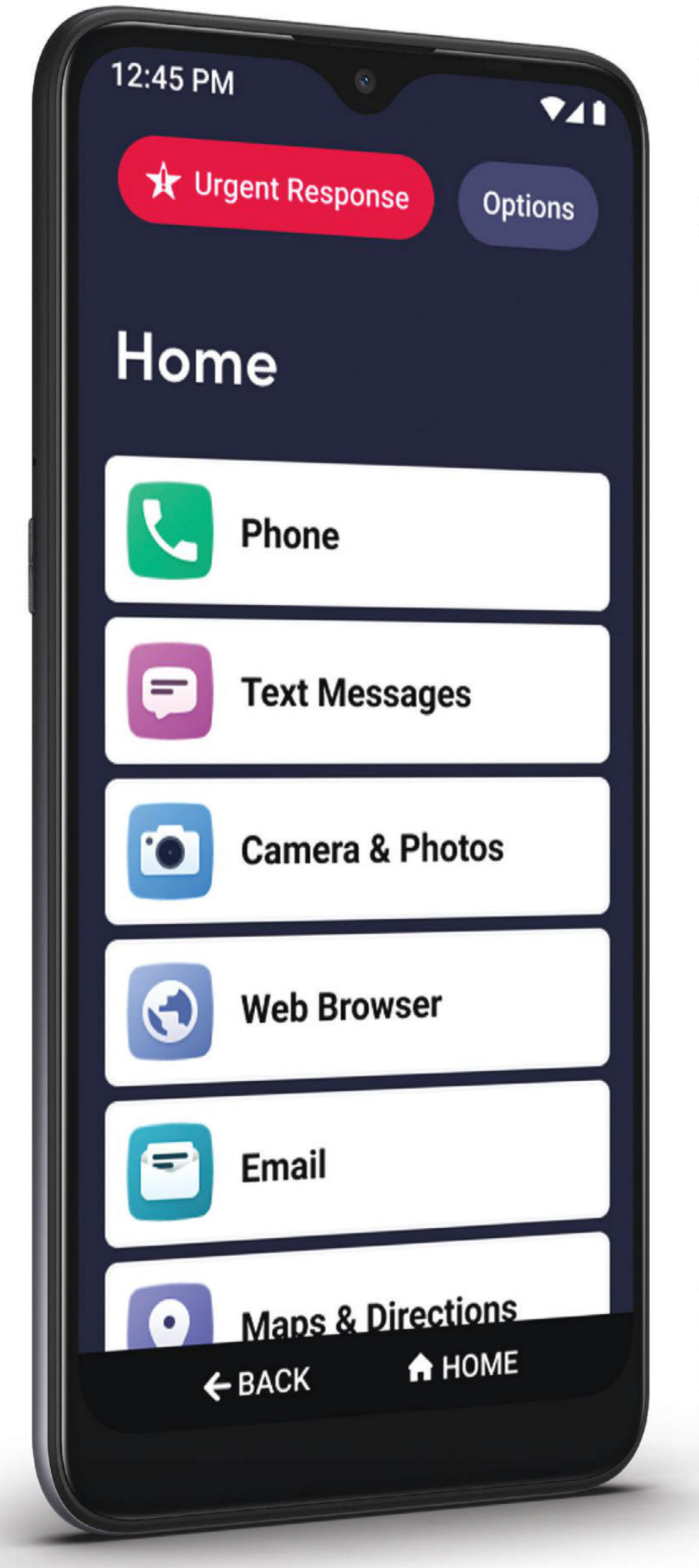

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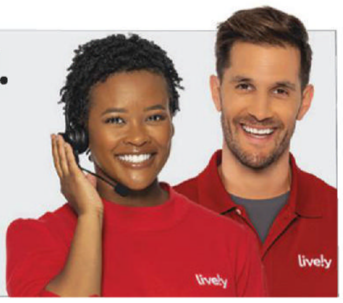

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TITANS

ANGELA BASSETT

LIONEL MESSI

BEYONCÉ

SHOU ZI CHEW

LAURENE POWELL JOBS

PADMA LAKSHMI

+ MORE

Photograph by Anthony Maule

ANGELA BASSETT

At the top of her game

BY TINA TURNER

Someone's going to play me in *What's Love Got to Do With It*? I was a little bit skeptical when work began on the 1993 film. First of all, who are they going to find to sing, dance, and act like me? Then, I looked up, saw Angela, and immediately started to smile.

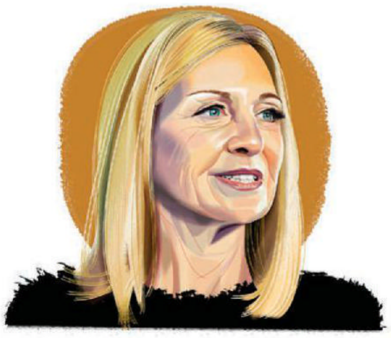
Angela, the first time we met, you didn't look, sound, or move like me—that came later after you worked so hard to make it happen. But even then, I could see that the young woman standing before me had strength, determination, and big, big dreams, just like me.

"She's perfect," I said, and I was right. You never mimicked me. Instead, you reached deep into your soul, found your inner Tina, and showed her to the world.

That's your gift, becoming your character with conviction, truth, dignity, and grace, even when it's painful, and takes everything you have and more. It's not just acting, it's being. Whether you're Tina Turner or the Queen of Wakanda, we believe in you because you believe in yourself.

You honor all the women you play, just as you honored me. And you're still perfect.

Turner is a Grammy-winning singer



Karen Lynch

EXPANDING ACCESS

By Kenneth C. Frazier

As president and CEO of CVS Health, Karen Lynch is on a mission to make health care simpler, more personalized, and more affordable. When you work with Karen, as I have on the American Heart Association CEO Roundtable, you can't miss her authenticity, candor, and drive to make a positive and profound difference.

After taking the helm at CVS in early 2021, Karen spearheaded efforts to administer COVID vaccines at company pharmacies and more than 40,000 long-term-care facilities. On her watch, CVS also increased vaccine access in vulnerable, low-income communities. Most recently, Karen has led a growing movement to reduce the cost of women's health products, unilaterally cutting prices on CVS store brands, and overseen an expansion into primary care.

For Karen, executive leadership means seizing opportunities to help others—including the underserved and the overlooked—and finding new ways for private industry to serve the greater good.

Frazier is the board chair of Transcarent and a former Merck CEO

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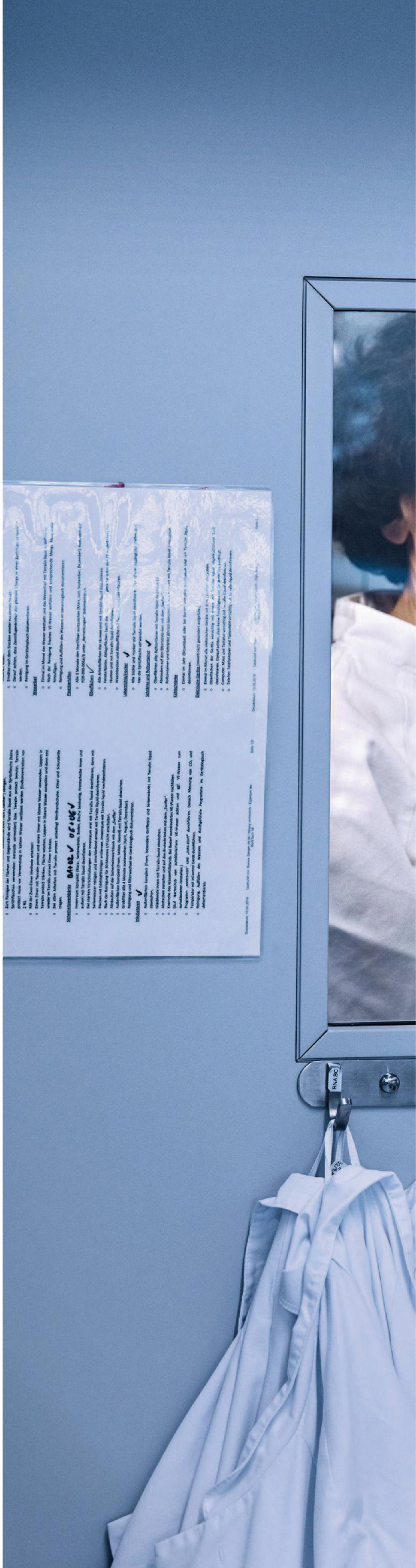


Ozlem Tureci and Ugur Sahin

ON THE VACCINE VANGUARD

By Walter Isaacson

The inspiring scientific story of creating a COVID-19 vaccine in 2020 was accompanied by an equally inspiring human story. Ozlem Tureci and Ugur Sahin, a German couple from Turkish immigrant families, were researching ways to fight cancer by harnessing mRNA, the molecule that tells our cells which proteins to build. When Sahin first read about COVID, he and Tureci developed a way to deploy mRNA to tell our cells how to build a facsimile of the coronavirus' spike protein, thus priming our immune system to fight the disease. Their company, BioNTech, partnered with Pfizer to test and distribute the vaccine.

Now Tureci and Sahin have turned their attention back to cancer. This year, some of their immunotherapy cancer vaccines went into clinical trials in Britain. But through it all, even as their stake in BioNTech made them billionaires, they still enjoy riding their old bicycles to spend time working in their lab.

Isaacson, a former managing editor of TIME, is the author of The Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race

PHOTOGRAPH BY LUCA LOCATELLI FOR TIME

Beyoncé

TRANSCENDENT ARTIST

By Honey Dijon

In 2003, Beyoncé performed her hit single "Crazy in Love" for the BET Awards. Her performance embodied the legacy and culture of Black artists from Josephine Baker to Tina Turner, James Brown, and Prince. The way she commanded the stage and led her band was transcendent. That performance secured her place in the pantheon as one of the greatest Black female artists of our time.

After being approached to work on her 2022 album *Renaissance,* I realized very quickly that I was contributing to yet another historic moment—not only for dance music, but also as a celebration of the foundations of Black music. From R&B to house, gospel to techno, hip-hop to vogue, Beyoncé wove a tapestry of music on *Renaissance* that celebrated all facets of Black music, including the immense contributions of the Black gay and queer community. Then she became the most-decorated Grammy winner ever.

Beyoncé's fearlessness, talent, beauty, and artistry will continue to influence and inspire Black female artists for millennia.

Honey Dijon is a DJ and music producer

JOHAN ROCKSTROM

Global guardian

BY BILL MCKIBBEN

Sweden has produced two of the most important figures in the fight to save the planet's climate. If most of the world knows Greta Thunberg, the scientific community is just as familiar with Johan Rockstrom. Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Rockstrom helped pioneer the concept of "planetary boundaries," environmental guidelines and limits that people need to operate within in order to keep humanity safe. His team has identified nine we shouldn't cross, including not just heating the earth, but also acidifying its oceans and degrading its ozone layer. Currently, we're crashing quickly through these red lines, which, according to Rockstrom, merits the urgent need to create "new business models that focus on circularity, regeneration, and justice." His work is crucial to understanding the interconnected crises facing our planet and is shaping the path forward, guiding leaders on how to turn complex science into clear, quantifiable actions.

McKibben is an author and an environmentalist

Padma Lakshmi

A TASTE OF GREATNESS

By Ali Wong

The first time I met Padma Lakshmi was after one of my shows in Los Angeles. It was around 11 p.m., and when she noticed the craft table covered in charcuterie, she pointed and said, “I think I need to hit that.” I thought, “Oh, wow. She eats for real for real.” It’s Padma’s genuine love of food—and how freaking smart she is—that makes her electric to watch as the host of *Top Chef,* currently in its 20th season, and *Taste the Nation With Padma Lakshmi,* which returns for a second season in May. It also helps that she’s drop-dead gorgeous.

Padma is an incredible writer, and that really shines through when she speaks. She’s articulate and has a strong point of view. When I was a guest judge on *Top Chef,* I was shocked by how honest and unafraid she was of being disliked. She’s brave in that way. I’m always in awe of Padma because, yes, she really is that beautiful, talented, and charismatic. She’s iconic.

Wong is a comedian, actor, and an Emmy-nominated writer

LAKSHMI: NATHAN CONGLETON—NBC/GETTY IMAGES; LIPSTADT: CHUCK FISHMAN—GETTY IMAGES; CHEW: AL DRAGO—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Deborah Lipstadt

FIGHTING INTOLERANCE

By Jonathan A. Greenblatt

In the Book of Proverbs, there’s a hymn that speaks of a woman of valor—*Eshet Chayil* in Hebrew—one who is strong and righteous and who also provides a safe home where Jewish values and traditions may thrive. As U.S. special envoy, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt exemplifies this image, tirelessly working to protect Jewish communities, and to build a world where all are safe and protected.

A distinguished scholar, Deborah has courageously taken on antisemitism on campus, in the courts, and in the halls of power. Now she is battling the “oldest hatred” at a moment when anti-Jewish hate has surged to record levels in the U.S. and around the world.

Deborah has aptly noted that antisemitism might start with the Jews, but it never ends with the Jews. And so her work—fearlessly calling on the international community to ensure that Jews everywhere can live safely and practice their faith freely—is critical not only for Jewish people, but also for ensuring a society free of bigotry and intolerance for all people.

Greenblatt is CEO and national director of the Anti-Defamation League

Shou Zi Chew

TIKTOK’S DEFENDER

By Billy Perrigo

On March 23, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew had his own 15 minutes of fame on the video-sharing platform. Lawmakers’ questions during a congressional committee hearing about security concerns in relation to TikTok and its unclear relationship with the Chinese government displayed a lack of understanding of the platform. Chew’s responses went viral. But while he received a sympathetic reception on the app to his congressional grilling, his troubles in Washington remain very real. He is the face of TikTok’s defense against the threat of a ban by the Biden Administration, which is skeptical of the platform’s ability to resist demands by the Chinese state for sensitive user data.

As skepticism and security concerns grow, TikTok’s popularity—and to some extent Chew’s own—among millions of young users, many of them voters, may be its primary defense against the platform’s becoming perhaps the biggest corporate victim yet of America’s deepening rivalry with China.

Perrigo is a TIME staff writer

Laurene Powell Jobs

SEEDING SOLUTIONS

By Yo-Yo Ma

Laurene Powell Jobs is a modern-day Emerson, a tireless advocate for humans and for society. She's also an incredible gardener—she keeps bees and is deeply knowledgeable about plant life and the conditions in which living things thrive. She is, amazingly, both specialist and generalist.

Just look at her philanthropic and investment institution Emerson Collective and its vast range of engagement, from immigration to journalism to entrepreneurship.

She shines a light on people finding solutions to seemingly intractable problems, whether climate change, a struggling education system, or endemic poverty. Through it all, there is a devotion to learning, teaching, and education, a lifelong commitment to creating spaces for curiosity to run free. Her work imagines the very best version of America, and the world. How does she do it? Laurene is capable of two things that are rare to find together: great analytical thinking and boundless empathy. When you have both, you make good decisions and can work toward both short- and long-term goals—which is really what gardening is all about.

Ma is a Grammy-winning cellist and a humanitarian

GINA PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD

Truth seeker

BY SANAA LATHAN

Gina Prince-Bythewood has a true belief in the power of stories. It's her life's purpose; she's always going to search for the truth. Throughout her career, she's also demonstrated a commitment to uplifting stories that aren't always centered onscreen, including stories about Black women and women of color. I will always cherish the memory of premiering *Love and Basketball* at Sundance back in 2000, and witnessing the five-minute standing ovation that followed. It was a surreal experience to witness a

PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD LAUTENS

young woman of color create that film for the world and to be by her side as she did it. And now, with 2022's critically acclaimed hit *The Woman King*, she's captured our world's attention once again. Gina is a true writer and craftsman, with an amazing imagination! She also has a lot of integrity, this quiet strength. She will not sway when she believes something is right. She's not only one of my favorite directors, but also my friend—and I'm her fan and cheerleader for life.

Lathan is an actor

JOBS: VALERIE PLESCH—GETTY IMAGES/BLOOMBERG; PRINCE-BYTHEWOOD: TORONTO STAR/GETTY IMAGES; MAHOMES II: CHRISTIAN PETERSEN—GETTY IMAGES; MUSK: DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS—GETTY IMAGES FOR THE MET MUSEUM/VOGUE

PATRICK MAHOMES II

The face of football

BY PEYTON MANNING

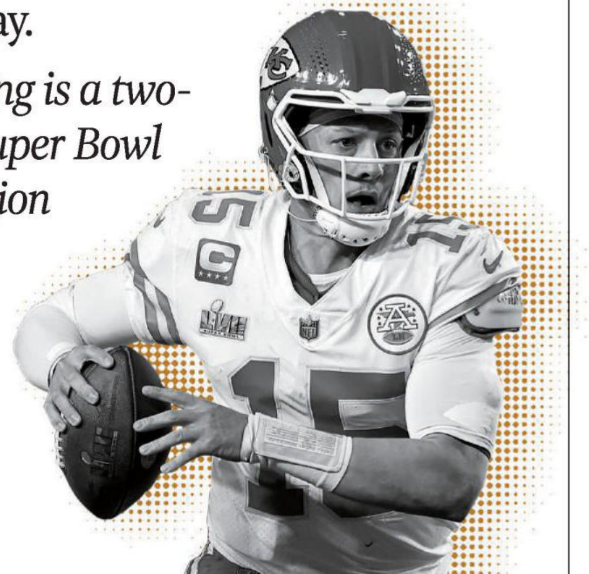
Patrick Mahomes once served as a counselor at the Manning Passing Academy, a summer football camp for high school players that my dad founded in 1996. You can learn a lot about a person by the way they treat eighth-graders and ninth-graders during those hot days in Louisiana. Patrick was great with the kids. I remember his arm strength back then. It jumped out at you.

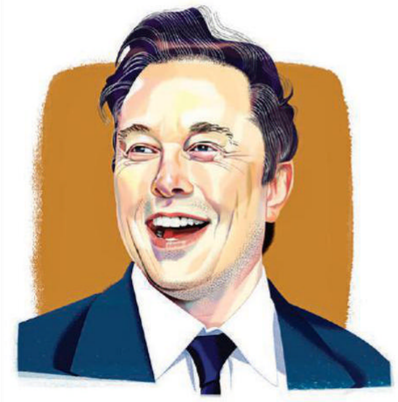
This February, at just 27, Patrick won his second Super Bowl MVP award. That arm strength still jumps out at you today.

Patrick is setting new bars. All these young players around the country are trying to imitate his sidearm throws and incredible plays. But I hope they know he's also an incredibly hard worker. He appreciates the cerebral part of the game. And he understands his platform, as the MVP quarterback of the Super Bowl–winning team.

This won't be the last time you hear Patrick Mahomes identified that way.

Manning is a two-time Super Bowl champion





Elon Musk

MAVERICK

By Kara Swisher

I first met Elon Musk in 1999 when he was just another Silicon Valley techie with a startup (in his case, X.com). But he soon distinguished himself using his boundless imagination and relentless drive that has landed rockets on platforms in the ocean, pioneered the electric-vehicle revolution, and changed how we think about energy in many forms. Cool, right? Not so much these days, because what I did not see coming a mile off was Musk's wholesale transformation into the world's richest online troll after his purchase of Twitter. It's a shame, because much of what he has tried to do over his career—even if some of it is still an aspiration—has been bold and inspirational, especially compared with most of the more anodyne techies for whom a better online dating service is the peak of innovation. But under Musk's erratic rule, Twitter has become a nonstop grievance tantrum we must all endure, and he wastes far too much of his time fiddling on his toxic violin while it burns. What's the opposite of progress? Elon Musk 2023.

Swisher is a journalist and host of the podcast On With Kara Swisher

Lionel Messi

THE CHAMPION

By Roger Federer

Lionel Messi's goal-scoring records and championship wins need no recounting here. What stands out to me about Messi, 35, is his consistent greatness over so many years. This is so difficult to achieve, and then maintain. He dribbles like a magician, and his angular passes are works of art. His awareness and anticipation are almost beyond comprehension.

My career has just come to an end. I now realize how much weight we athletes carry. But in our daily lives, we don't even realize it. For a football player like Messi, that weight likely feels more massive, as he represents both a world-renowned club and a very passionate country. Argentina's World Cup victory was magnificent. Millions of fans' taking to the streets of Buenos Aires to celebrate was an amazing moment in sports, witnessed around the world. Even those who don't follow football must have realized the true impact of the world's most popular game.

Growing up, Diego Maradona and Gabriel Batistuta were my favorite Argentine players. I was lucky enough to meet both of them. They inspired me. Now Messi can inspire future generations. I can only hope we get to see his unique creativity and artistry for a little bit longer. Don't blink too often as Messi performs on the pitch. You may miss something incredible from the man of the moment.

Thank you, Leo.

Federer, an athlete and philanthropist, has won 20 Grand Slam singles titles

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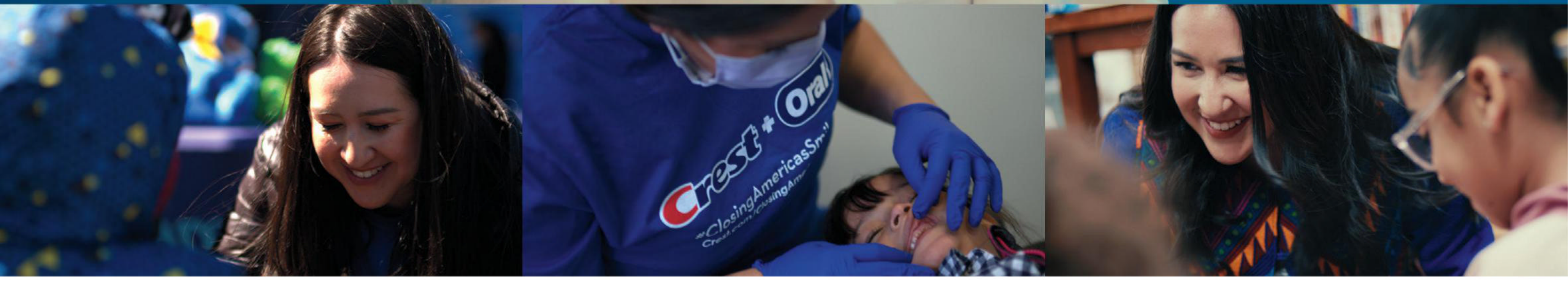

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LEG 4 ITAJAÍ – NEWPORT

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FUMIO KISHIDA

JOE BIDEN

SHERRY REHMAN

+ MORE

OLENA ZELENSKA

Photograph by Maxim Dondyuk for TIME

OLENA ZELENSKA

A light for Ukraine

BY JILL BIDEN

A writer who worked behind the scenes, she never asked for a spotlight. A mother of two, she never asked to become the heart of a nation at war.

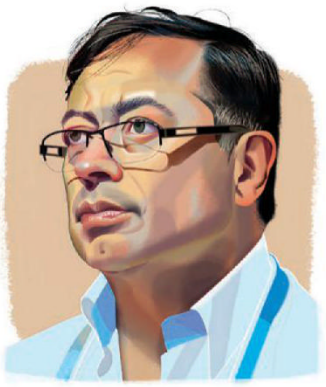
Olena Zelenska didn't expect to become a warrior for the people of Ukraine, but she has answered this call with selfless courage.

I met the First Lady last Mother's Day in a small town near the edge of her country, just a few months after Russia's unprovoked war of aggression began. Instinctively, we embraced—two mothers, two nations, coming together for peace. In the strain of her smile, I could see the weight she carried: the sleep lost to the percussion of falling bombs, the tales of atrocities that she would never forget. In her eyes, however, was the fierce determination and dignity that has defined her people.

She could take her family and flee. What mother would blame her? Yet, she stays. She stays because freedom and democracy deserve defenders. She stays to show the world that heart and hope can make even the largest tyrant seem small. She stays for her children—for their future, and the future of all Ukrainians.

Olena Zelenska is a mother. Protector. The pride of her nation. A beacon of hope for the people she loves.

Biden is First Lady of the United States



Gustavo Petro

SETTING A NEW COURSE

By Gabriel Boric

When Gustavo Petro assumed the presidency of Colombia in August 2022, I was lucky enough to be there to see the streets of Bogotá full of people—and of hope. Gustavo, the leader of a historic political coalition, has built an ambitious and transformative program. With the pragmatism required to exercise power, he has built broad alliances that allow him to dialogue with most of the democratic forces in his country. His north star is deepening Colombia's peace plan, using all of the knowledge gained in recent years in a territory that was besieged by violence for far too long, along with rebuilding Latin American unity beyond rhetoric—a goal we share. Gustavo also dares to speak about complex issues, like the failure of the antidrug policy championed by the U.S. and the need to overhaul it; the fair distribution of wealth in his country and in the world; and the imperative to care for the environment in the context of a global climate crisis. He's a leader who makes difficult decisions and learns fast. I deeply respect him and the projects he embodies.

Boric is the President of Chile

PETRO: GUILLERMO LEGARIA SCHWEIZER—GETTY IMAGES; VESTAGER: MAJORITY WORLD/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

Margrethe Vestager

TAKING ON BIG TECH

By Ayesha Javed

Known as the E.U.'s digital czar, Margrethe Vestager has taken on tech giants Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, and Meta since becoming European Commissioner for Competition in 2014. Operating far from Silicon Valley, Vestager is leading the global crackdown on the market power of Big Tech companies. Her investigations have resulted in large fines for some, as well as stricter rules. In September, Vestager and the European Commission won a historic battle with Alphabet-owned Google, resulting in a record €4.125 billion ($4.5 billion) fine relating to abuses in the mobile market, which ended up in the E.U. General Court. Now she faces resistance from some of the biggest U.S. companies as the E.U. pushes through rules for reporting foreign subsidies. She may also soon have some new targets in her sight—she has her eye on competition in the metaverse and has urged an agreement on setting guardrails for artificial intelligence.

Javed is a TIME senior editor

PHOTOGRAPH BY MARTIN BERTRAND

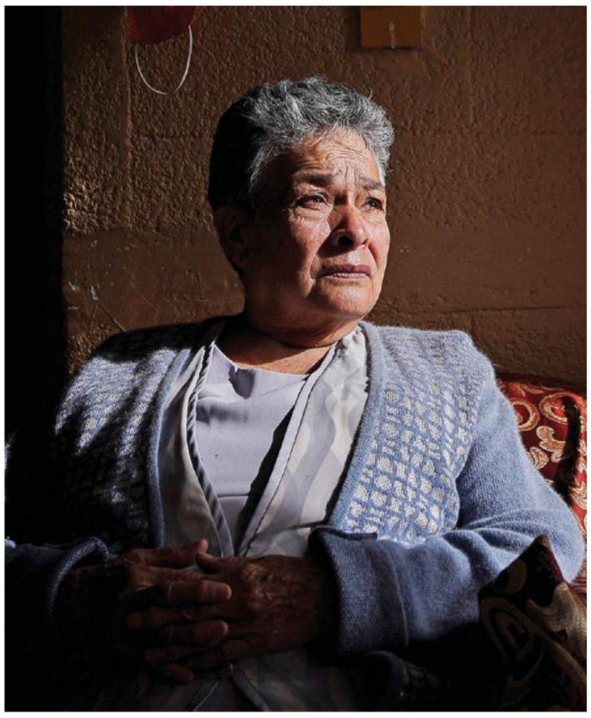
María Herrera Magdaleno

VOICE FOR THE MISSING

By Ciara Nugent

Mexican activist María Herrera Magdaleno, 73, helps lead a thousands-strong movement that no one wants to join. Four of her eight children—Jesús Salvador, Raúl, Luis Armando, and Gustavo—have been missing for over a decade. They are among the more than 111,000 people currently missing in Mexico amid endemic violence sown by drug cartels. When Herrera's appeal for help from the Mexican justice system bore little fruit—a common experience in a country where police lack the resources to deal with their massive caseload and are known to collude with organized-crime groups—she joined a movement of families taking the search into their own hands. Known affectionately as Doña Mary, she helped found in 2014 a national network of local collectives that teach people how to investigate a loved one's disappearance. In May 2022 she met with Pope Francis, and in November she sued the Mexican state in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights for its failure to investigate her sons' disappearances. Human-rights advocates say such efforts are piling pressure on Mexico's leaders to respond to the crisis.

Nugent is a TIME staff writer



MITCH MCCONNELL

Dealmaker

BY BILL FRIST

Mitch McConnell this year became the longest-serving Senate leader of either party in history—and for a reason. He leads exceptionally, every two years overwhelmingly affirmed by his colleagues. My perspective is colored by the four years he served as whip when I was leader. Every day I saw his style: leadership with clarity, uncanny command of persuasion, and unwavering conviction, anchored in Republican principles. His mastery of Senate rules is legendary, and his transformation of the federal

PHOTOGRAPH BY AL DRAGO

judiciary is widely known, but what most might not see is his willingness to negotiate and achieve a greater good by working with the "other side." In the past year, he led bipartisan efforts to find and secure funding for the war in Ukraine, and President Biden told him the massive bipartisan infrastructure law of 2021 "wouldn't have happened without your hand." Mitch knows when and how to cut a deal.

Frist, a Republican, is a former U.S. Senate majority leader

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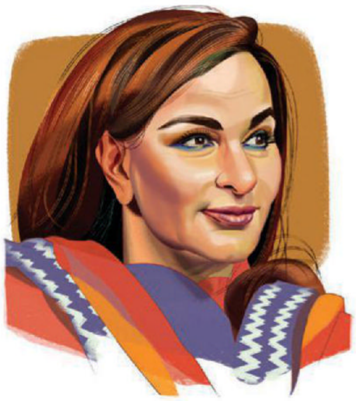


Sherry Rehman

FAIR PLAY

By Jennifer Morgan

There are many terrible sides to the climate crisis, but one of the most distressing is that it is hitting hardest those countries that are least responsible for it. Pakistan is responsible for only a fraction of global emissions, but the climate crisis led to more than a third of the country being flooded last year. The water had not yet fully receded when Sherry Rehman arrived in Egypt for COP27, the U.N. climate summit, in November. There, as Pakistan's Minister for Climate Change, she gave a voice to those who had lost everything to the floods. Through impassioned speeches and tireless engagement in negotiations, she convinced many of the delegates that the blatant injustice must come to an end. COP27 ended with a historic decision—the world community agreed for the first time to establish new loss and damage funding arrangements to support the most vulnerable countries. This is a big step toward climate justice, but we still have a long way to go. We will need more people like Sherry Rehman along the way.

Morgan is Germany's state secretary and special envoy for international climate action

Bola Ahmed Tinubu

KINGMAKER TO KING

By Astha Rajvanshi

Winning an election in Africa's most populous country is no easy feat. But Nigeria's newly elected President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has had nearly two decades to prepare. Called Jagaban, or "leader of the warriors," by his supporters, the now 71-year-old ran in a presidential election for the first time this March. His campaign slogan, "It's my turn," was a nod to his role as a longtime political power broker. Tinubu helped restore the country's democracy in 1999 after fighting military rule and then served two consecutive terms as governor of Lagos.

But Tinubu's win with the ruling All Progressives Congress Party came in a fraught election and by a slim margin over Atiku Abubakar and Peter Obi. It was the first time Nigerian voters contended with a third-party candidate, and many discontented young Nigerians yearning for change pinned their hopes on Obi. Marred by allegations of intimidation and vote rigging, the outcome of the ballot is being challenged in court.

Tinubu now faces a litany of crises in a fractured nation, including deep-rooted corruption, religious insurgencies, and shortages of cash, fuel, and power in a crumbling economy. But the President-elect seems aware of his inheritance: "[Nigeria] is one country and we must build it together," he said in his acceptance speech.

Rajvanshi is a TIME staff writer

Evan Gershkovich

REPORTING THE TRUTH

By Simon Shuster

Under Vladimir Putin reporters have been jailed, beaten in the streets, and murdered. In March, the Kremlin opened another front in its war on the press by charging Evan Gershkovich, a respected reporter for the *Wall Street Journal,* with espionage. He faces up to 20 years in prison. The American son of Soviet émigrés, Gershkovich understood the risks of reporting on Russia. He described it in July as a "regular practice of watching people you know get locked away for years." The Russian invasion of Ukraine was in its sixth month by then, and most independent media had fled Moscow to avoid a wave of wartime persecution. Gershkovich decided not to move away, a risk fewer journalists will take with his arrest. Gershkovich's case already resembles a hostage crisis. Putin might use it to squeeze concessions from the U.S., and if one result is further isolation of his country, that might suit him just fine. The fewer journalists there are like Gershkovich in Russia, the more freedom Putin gets to rule by lies.

Shuster is a TIME senior correspondent

JANET YELLEN

A steady hand

BY LAWRENCE H. SUMMERS

No one else has ever been better prepared to lead the U.S.'s response to a financial crisis than Janet Yellen. The only person in history to serve as the President's chief economic adviser, the vice chair and chair of the Federal Reserve, and Secretary of the Treasury, Yellen has been at the center of the financial universe for a generation. Her integrity and analytical acumen are universally admired. With the country facing the perils of inflation, recession, a possible federal default, and a metastasizing banking crisis, the success of the Biden presidency and America's place in the world rest on her policy judgments. The actions taken by U.S. financial authorities, with Yellen's leadership, in the wake of Silicon Valley Bank's collapse in early March have brought stability and prevented bank runs. It's clear that Treasury Secretary Yellen has made and will make much more history.

Summers is a professor and former U.S. Treasury Secretary

Hakeem Jeffries

TAKING THE HELM

By Nancy Pelosi

Hakeem Jeffries became Democratic leader with the enthusiastic, unified support of House Democrats. With his rousing opening remarks on the House floor, that support caught fire with Democrats and others across the country.

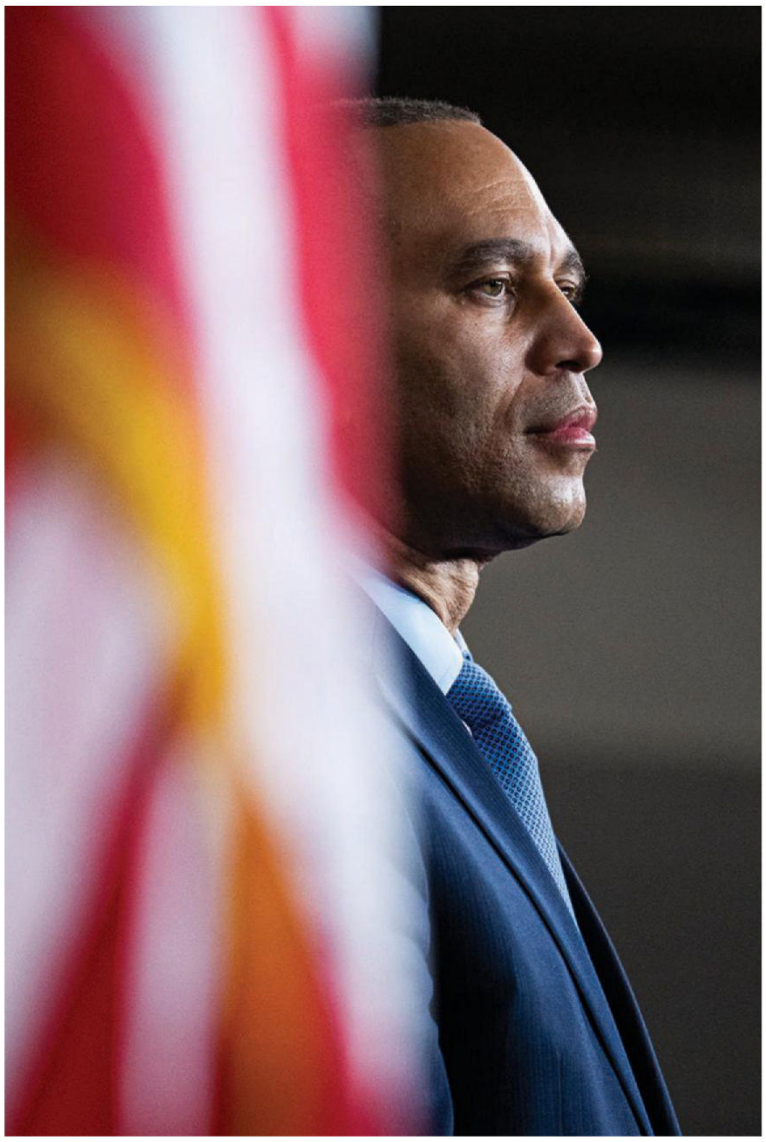
Every day, Hakeem leads with his values and vision, his knowledge and strategic thinking—always putting people over politics.

In becoming the first ever Black congressional leader, Hakeem has made history. Under his leadership, Democrats will make progress. Leader Jeffries is already doing a terrific job in the fight for Democratic values and against Republican extremism.

The challenge is great. But I know the job, I know Hakeem, and I know he will succeed. Leader Jeffries is a person of faith, patriotism, and respect for the oath we take to protect and defend our Constitution.

Our entire country will benefit from his new leadership—and one day very soon, he will be an excellent Speaker of the House!

Pelosi, a Democrat, is Speaker Emerita of the House of Representatives



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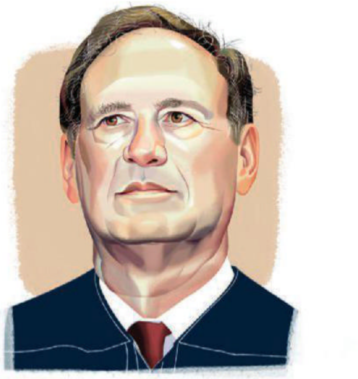


Samuel Alito

ROLLING BACK ABORTION RIGHTS

By Tessa Berenson Rogers

In June 2022, the conservative legal movement's half-century-long project to overturn *Roe v. Wade* was completed with a stroke of Samuel Alito's pen.

It was no accident that Alito, a Catholic stalwart of the Supreme Court's right flank since George W. Bush's presidency, was chosen to write the majority opinion in the decision that rolled back abortion rights nationwide and reshaped reproductive health care in the U.S. His *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision—which leaked in a stunning breach of Supreme Court protocol weeks before the official release—is strident and self-assured, declaring *Roe* "egregiously wrong" and comparing it to the infamous case that established the "separate but equal" segregation doctrine.

Abortion has been thrown back into the political arena, and a new generation of women are fighting the same reproductive-rights battles their grandmothers once did. Alito has been on the Supreme Court for 17 years. But in 2022, he cemented his legacy.

Rogers is a TIME editor

Olaf Scholz

PIVOTING GERMANY

By Yasmeen Serhan

When Chancellor Olaf Scholz declared the Russian invasion of Ukraine a *Zeitenwende,* an epochal turning point, he pledged that Germany would rise to the occasion. Though Berlin's response hasn't always been as quick as many of its allies would like, Scholz has begun to deliver. In the space of a year, Germany overturned its postwar pacifism, ramping up its military spending (albeit by a fraction of what was pledged) and becoming one of Ukraine's biggest arms suppliers. It also ended its reliance on Russian energy and, after international pressure, sent coveted Leopard 2 battle tanks to Kyiv. Delays that critics regard as needless hesitation are seen by others as due caution in a nation still scarred by its own history of wartime aggression. "Living in Germany, you can't go away from the disasters of the first half of the 20th century, which were caused by Germany," Scholz told TIME in 2022. "It is in all the things we do politically, and it is in my mind too because we have a historic responsibility to help secure peace."

Serhan is a TIME staff writer

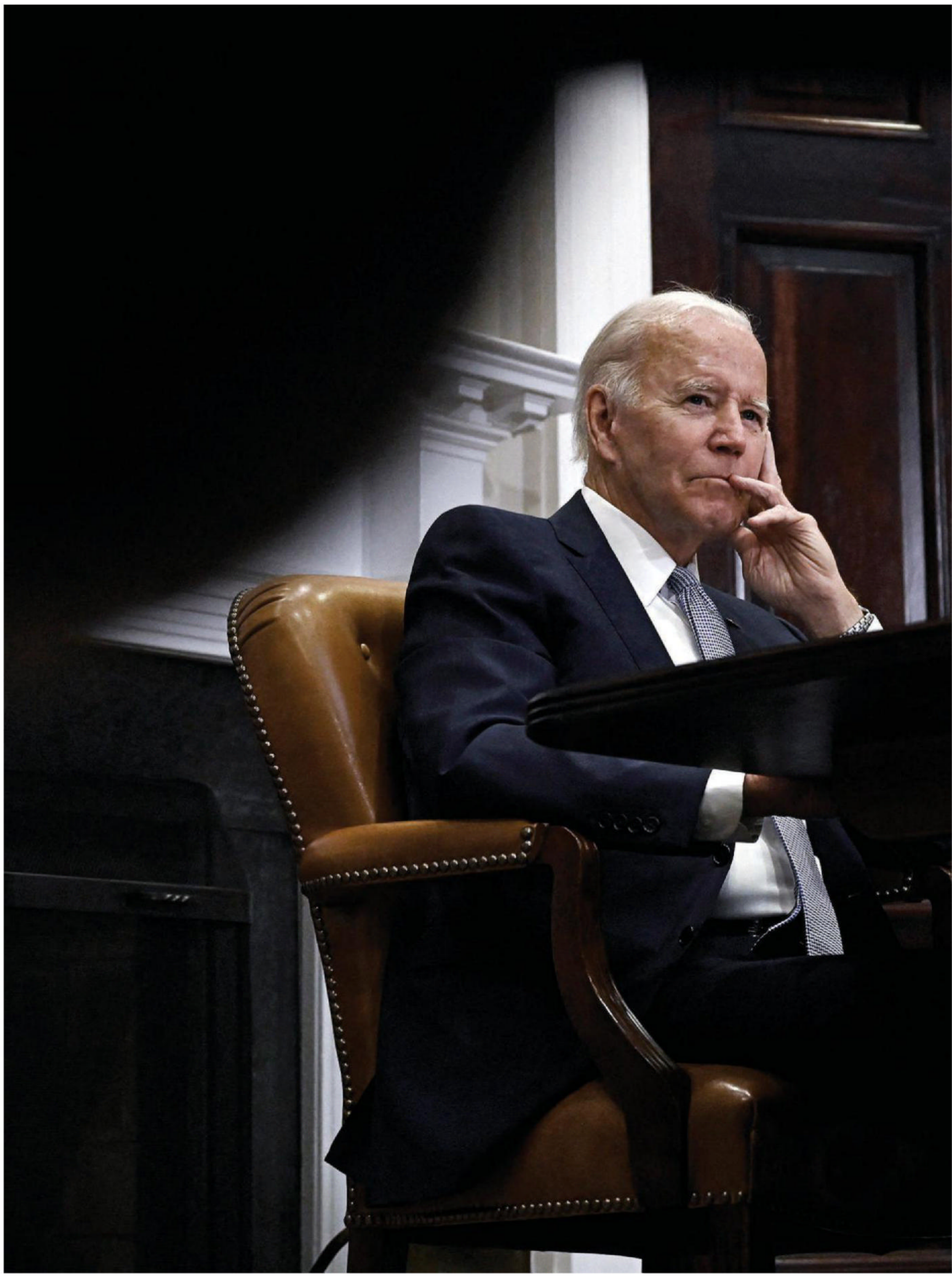
Oleksandra Matviichuk

RECORDING WAR CRIMES

By Hillary Rodham Clinton

A renowned Ukrainian human-rights lawyer at just 39 years old, Oleksandra Matviichuk has devoted her life to protecting democracy. Oleksandra and her team at the Center for Civil Liberties—a human-rights organization based in Kyiv—have strived to make Ukraine more democratic and document Russia's war crimes against civilians. Last year, she jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize—the first ever awarded to a Ukrainian citizen or organization. Violence against civilians is a crime against society, democracy, and humanity. Yet it is too often perpetrated with impunity, particularly against women and girls. That's why the work that Oleksandra and her organization are doing is so urgent and important. By documenting Russia's atrocities so perpetrators can face prosecution, she is proof that women are not just victims of war; they can be agents of peace and justice.

Clinton, a Democrat, is a former U.S. Senator and Secretary of State



JOE BIDEN

Driving change

BY BRIAN BENNETT

Joe Biden likes to say that it's never a good idea to bet against the American people. Ron Klain, his first chief of staff, has a different take: "It is never a good bet to bet against Joe Biden." As he ramps up for a likely re-election campaign, Biden can point to a crowded scorecard of accomplishments: hundreds of billions of dollars to combat climate change; capping annual drug costs for Medicare holders; historic investments in roads, bridges, and broadband access; ushering the first Black woman onto the Supreme Court; passing the first gun-control law in a generation;

PHOTOGRAPH BY OLIVIER DOULIERY

and record appointments to the judiciary. Not to mention reasserting America's position on the world stage by rallying allies around Ukraine, six months after the disastrous withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. Yet Biden's polling remains underwater amid an uncertain economy. The irony for Biden is that many of his accomplishments won't be fully felt until years after voters have their say in 2024. Getting that record across will be Biden's charge as he makes his case for a second term.

Bennett is a TIME senior correspondent

MATVIICHUK: JOHN THYS—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; BIDEN: AFP/GETTY IMAGES; KISHIDA: ANTONIO MASIELLO—GETTY IMAGES; ALBANESE: ROHAN THOMSON—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

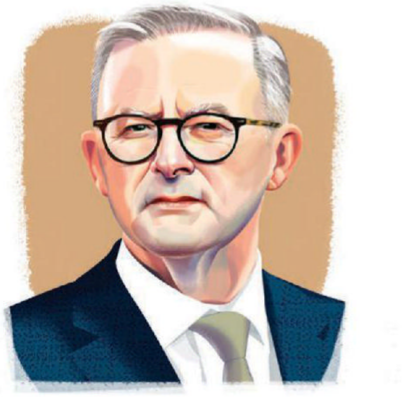
FUMIO KISHIDA

Centering security

BY CHARLIE CAMPBELL

When, on March 21, Fumio Kishida laid a wreath in the stricken Ukrainian town of Bucha, Japan's Prime Minister remarked upon "great anger at the atrocity." Kishida, 65, knows the pain of war; he lost several relatives to the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, his ancestral home, and grew up on stories of their suffering. And so, faced with rising aggression from Russia, China, and North Korea, Kishida has set about revolutionizing Japanese foreign policy: soothing historical grievances with South Korea, boosting defense spending by over 50%, and strengthening security alliances with the U.S. At home, he has launched a "new model of capitalism" to grow the middle class through redistributive policies. Much work remains: Kishida's party has faced criticism for marginalizing the LGBTQ+ community and for close links to a controversial cult. But when Kishida welcomes G-7 leaders to Hiroshima in May, he'll do so as head of a resurgent Japan.

Campbell is a TIME correspondent



Anthony Albanese

PROGRESSIVE PM

By Justin Trudeau

Progressives around the world are united in the idea that we should leave no one behind. The idea that no matter who you are or where you come from, you should have every chance to succeed in life. Few politicians embody that journey as Anthony Albanese does. From growing up in public housing to taking office last spring as Australia's new Prime Minister, he is a symbol of hope and inspiration. He works to lift up and amplify the voices of those who need to be heard from, particularly Indigenous peoples. His government supports those who need it most, believes that we need to take ambitious climate action, and unwaveringly supports democracy in the face of unprecedented threat. In a world where people are increasingly uncertain about what the future holds for them and their families, it's easy for politicians to sow fear and division. To choose the path of hope and opportunity takes immense courage, and that courage lives within Anthony Albanese.

Trudeau is the Prime Minister of Canada

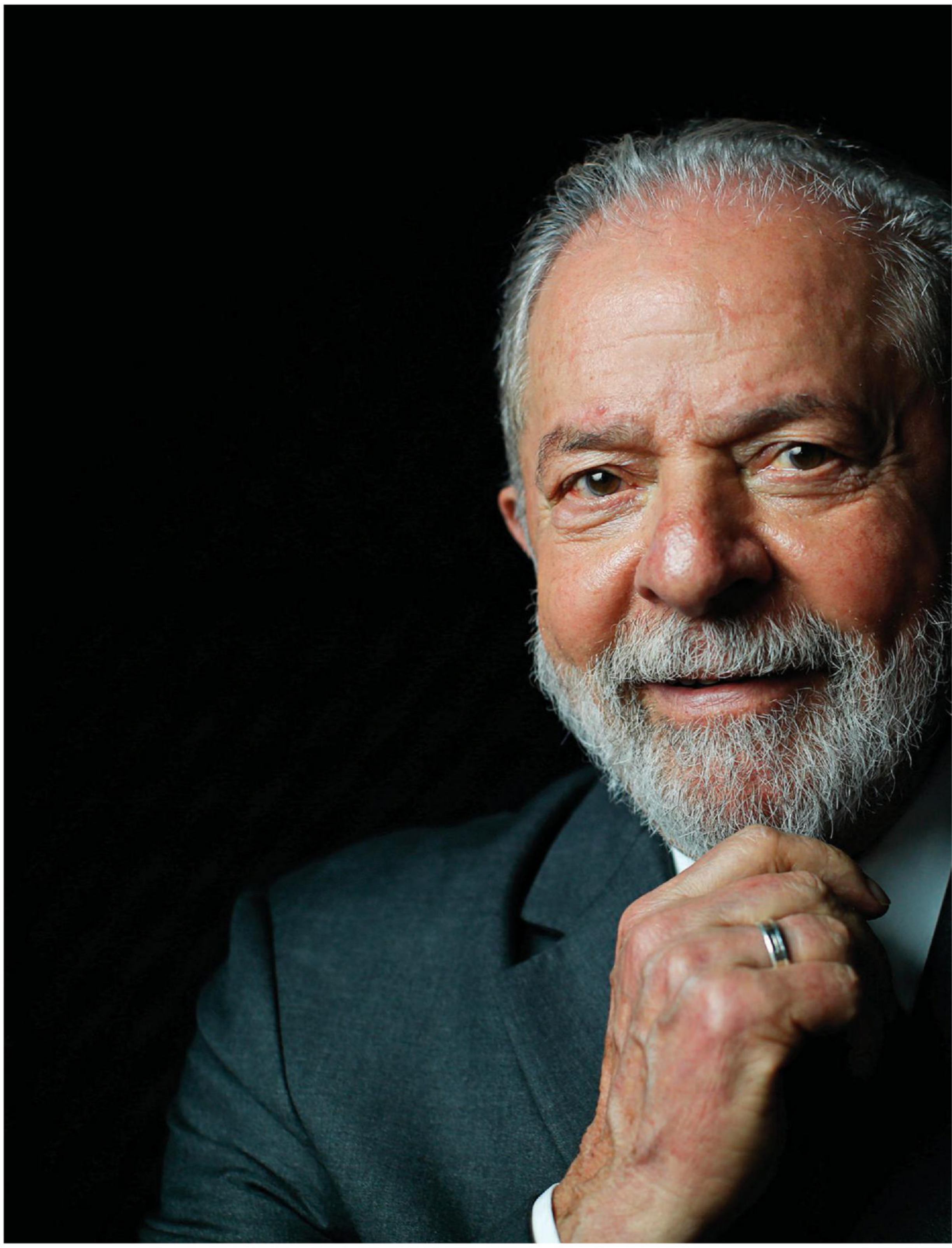
Cindy McCain

FEEDING THE WORLD

By Catherine Bertini

For decades, Cindy McCain has been passionate about providing support to vulnerable people worldwide. McCain has led efforts against human trafficking, organized medical personnel to provide assistance to war victims, and served on multiple NGO boards—not to mention her work as the American ambassador to the U.N. Agencies in Rome. Her experience and commitment will serve her well in her new challenge leading one of the globe's largest humanitarian organizations, the U.N. World Food Programme. Based in Rome, the WFP reached over 150 million people in 2022 with lifesaving food and nutritional support. McCain's extensive experience will become evident as she provides leadership, managerial direction, change management, advocacy, fundraising, diplomacy, creativity, collaboration, and compassion to her new role. Cindy McCain now holds one of the toughest and most rewarding jobs in the world. By all accounts, she is up to the task.

Bertini is managing director of the Rockefeller Foundation's Food Initiative and a former executive director of the World Food Programme



LUIZ INÁCIO LULA DA SILVA

Back to the environment

BY AL GORE

In the past year, political will for climate action has blossomed: the U.S. made the most significant investment in climate solutions in its history with the Inflation Reduction Act; Australia elected a pro-climate government and committed to greater emissions reductions; and after years of state-sanctioned environmental degradation and destruction, the people of Brazil chose a new path by electing a climate champion in Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

As President, Lula has pledged to bolster Brazil's standing in the world—renewing the country's commitment to democracy, justice, and economic fairness. But in no other area does he stand to make a more

PHOTOGRAPH BY AMANDA PEROBELLI

significant impact than on the twin climate and biodiversity crises. Brazil is home to one of our planet's most important natural wonders: the Amazon rain forest. After many years of rising deforestation and wildfires, the Amazon is transforming from a carbon sink into a net source of emissions. President Lula has pledged to protect the Amazon, and he has done it before—reducing deforestation by 72% in his previous term. From tackling forest loss to accelerating Brazil's clean-energy transition, President Lula's leadership will be critical in this decisive decade for climate action.

Gore is a former Vice President of the United States, and founder and chairman of the Climate Reality Project

MCCAIN: AKOS STILLER—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; LULA: REUTERS;
MIN AUNG HLAING: AP; RAIMONDO: TING SHEN—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Min Aung Hlaing

IRON-FISTED GENERAL

By Charlie Campbell

During a parade to mark Myanmar's Armed Forces Day on March 27, General Min Aung Hlaing, military tunic festooned with medals, inspected thousands of soldiers from an open-top jeep. The display of pomp was a signal of the 66-year-old's viselike grip over the nation of 54 million since his February 2021 coup d'état.

From his podium, he warned that the pro-democracy rebels he is embroiled in a blood-soaked campaign against would be "tackled for good and all." Since the putsch, villages have been terrorized by artillery and air raids, leaving tens of thousands killed and more than a million displaced. Even before he seized power, the U.N. accused him of massacring Rohingya Muslims with "genocidal intent."

Min Aung Hlaing has returned Myanmar to a pariah state and made it the world's second most authoritarian regime, per the Economist Intelligence Unit's 2022 Democracy Index. Only Taliban-ruled Afghanistan ranked worse.

Campbell is a TIME correspondent

GINA RAIMONDO

Bolstering innovation

BY JACK REED

In 1971, my mother had me visit our neighbors to congratulate them on the arrival of their new baby, Gina Marie Raimondo. I had no idea this tiny bundle from a working-class family would become Rhode Island's first female governor and the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Gina's brilliance, skill, and work ethic fueled her meteoric rise, while her family keeps her grounded. She has always been a fierce competitor, unafraid to tackle thorny issues and willing to sacrifice her own political fortunes for the greater good.

As Secretary, she is reviving U.S. manufacturing and rebuilding our technological infrastructure. To return the U.S. to being the global leader in microchip production, she deftly shepherded the CHIPS and Science Act through Congress and is building the diverse coalitions needed to supercharge U.S. semiconductor production, fortify supply chains, and strengthen national security. As always, Secretary Raimondo will get the job done, credit others, and embrace the next challenge.

Reed, a Democrat, is a U.S. Senator for Rhode Island

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PIONEERS

S.S. RAJAMOULI

MIKAELA SHIFFRIN

BELLA HADID

SAM ALTMAN

ROBIN ZENG

+ MORE

DOJA CAT

Photograph by Paola Kudacki for TIME

DOJA CAT

A new kind of star

BY BAZ LUHRMANN

I've worked with all kinds of artists, but with a certain few you connect on a deeper level. For me, Doja Cat is one of those artists. She's at the top because she works to bring everything she does to the highest possible level. When she started to work on "Vegas" for *Elvis,* Elvis was relegated to a Halloween costume—he wasn't influential to the younger generation. But Doja and her producer Yeti Beats understood the importance of translating "Hound Dog" for a new audience. For them, it was an act of translating the roots of Black music.

Doja is a true child of the internet, creatively plugged into the kind of social connection that I'm generationally incapable of understanding. She is personally connected with her fans, and that allows her to understand and feed back to them. She can't be boxed in. She's a rapper, a singer, a performance artist—she's the canvas on which she expresses a character or an idea. There's no "brand" to Doja Cat. You never know what she's going to do next, and that's exciting.

Luhrmann is an Oscar-nominated filmmaker

MrBeast

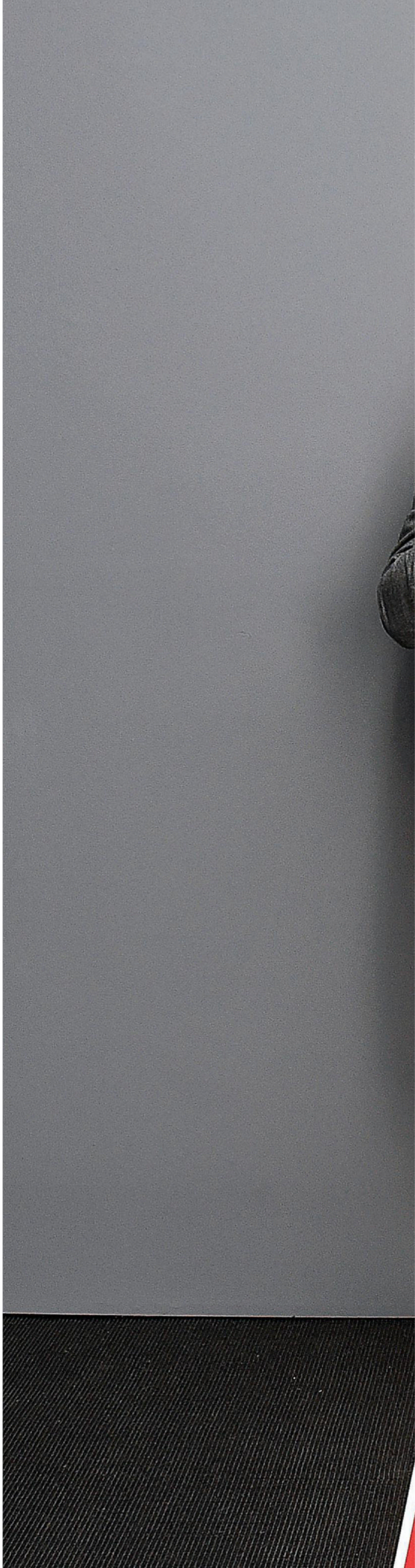
VIRAL CREATOR

By Mark Rober

The best engineers I knew at NASA were the ones who could break a complex problem down to first principles. They could strip away the noise, reduce a problem to its essence, and find the solution. Jimmy Donaldson—known online by the handle MrBeast—is able to do that too. The path to making his videos go viral and dominating social platforms—including YouTube, where he has 140 million subscribers—is clear and obvious to him. Jimmy's crystal ball is less cloudy than most people's. When we worked together to raise the funds to plant 20 million trees and remove 30 million lb. of plastic from the ocean through the Team Trees and Team Seas campaigns, his optimism was infectious. He's constantly raising the bar for creators whether it's through re-creating *Squid Game* in real life or paying for the eye surgeries of 1,000 blind people. He doesn't really understand small thinking or complacency. I don't know what he'll do 10 years down the road, but I know it won't be status quo.

Rober is a YouTuber and a former NASA engineer

MRBEAST: ROBIN L MARSHALL—WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; BROWNE: GETTY IMAGES FOR SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS AMERICA



Thom Browne

FASHION INNOVATOR

By Amy Sherald

Thom Browne is a creator of worlds. He is constantly shifting the lens on menswear and womenswear. He re-envisions the fashion lexicon through his designs, proportions, and storytelling even within the parameters of his classic gray uniform.

As a painter, I am drawn to Thom's imagination, analogies, and metaphors. He pulls you directly into a fantastical and magically real place that can simultaneously be read within and transcend a historical context. Now chairman of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, he continues to upend fashion conventions with thoughtfulness about every detail.

Thom's designs bring us into his unique creative space and show us that we belong. His ideas about what clothing can be are expansive. They carry us into the realm of self-costuming, self-fashioning, and self-experimentation. His work inspires us to recognize the endless possibilities of play in daily life, in how we represent ourselves through style and beyond.

Sherald is a painter best known for her portraits

PHOTOGRAPH BY ILYA S. SAVENOK

Sam Rivera

TREATMENT WITH CARE

By Beth Macy

In 2021, roughly 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses. And yet only a slim fraction—roughly 11%—of people with opioid use disorder (OUD) managed to access evidence-based care in 2020. If we were being graded, that's an F.

Sam Rivera has pioneered an approach to help, rather than abandon or simply jail—as we usually do—an estimated 7 million Americans with OUD. As executive director of OnPoint NYC, he meets drug users without judgment, instead offering support, clean needles, and critical connections to care that include providing medically supervised injection spaces at three sites in New York City.

To turn our declining life expectancy around, we must scale up Rivera's harm-reduction approach, which means supporting people who use drugs, not stigmatizing them. Despite what the racist war on drugs told us growing up—and despite archaic abstinence-only models that too many 12-step programs still push—Rivera's approach actually works to prevent death, hasten recovery, and restore humanity.

Macy is an author who wrote Dopesick *and most recently* Raising Lazarus: Hope, Justice, and the Future of America's Overdose Crisis

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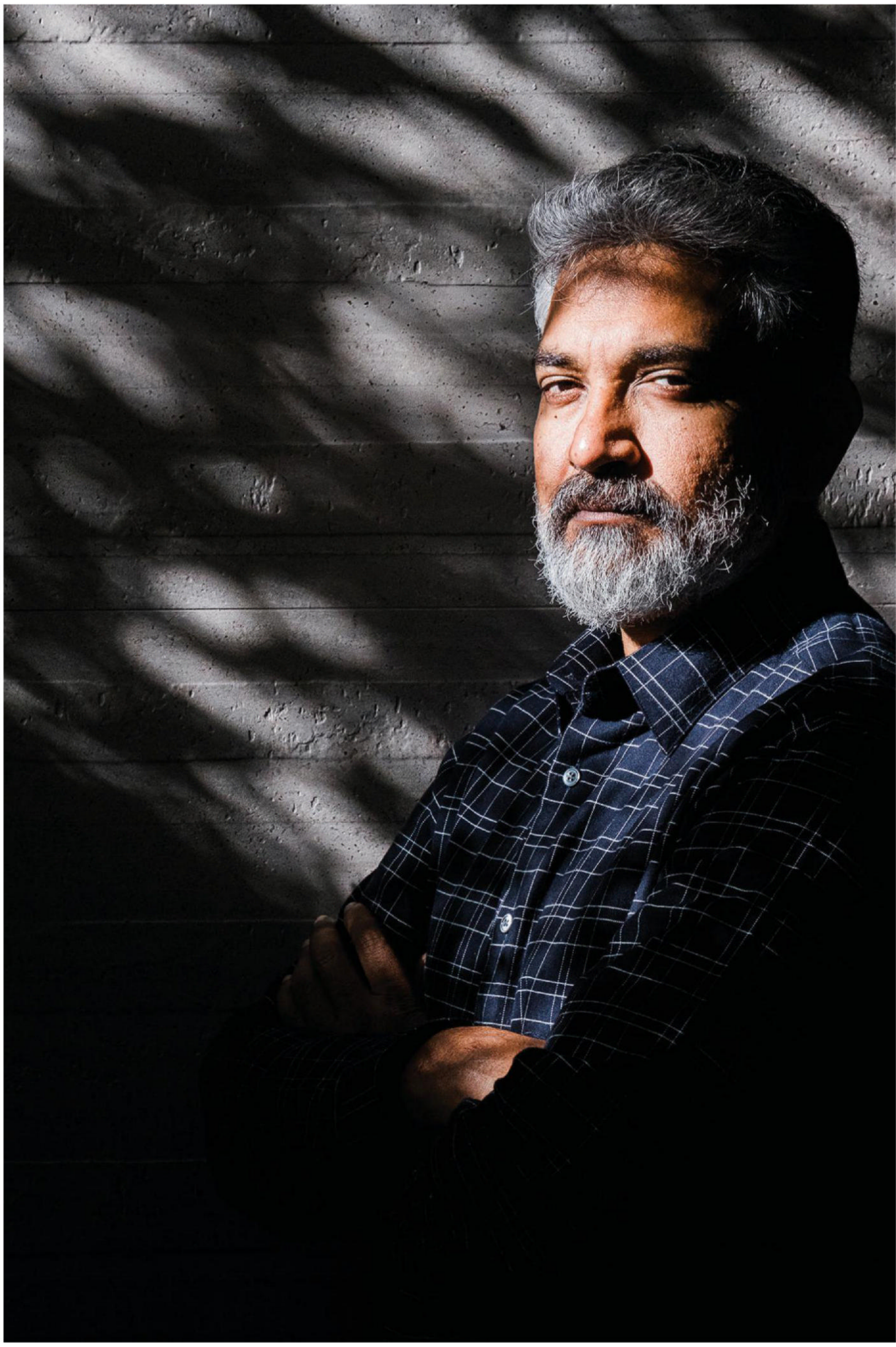
FIGHT AIDS
ACT UP



S.S. RAJAMOULI

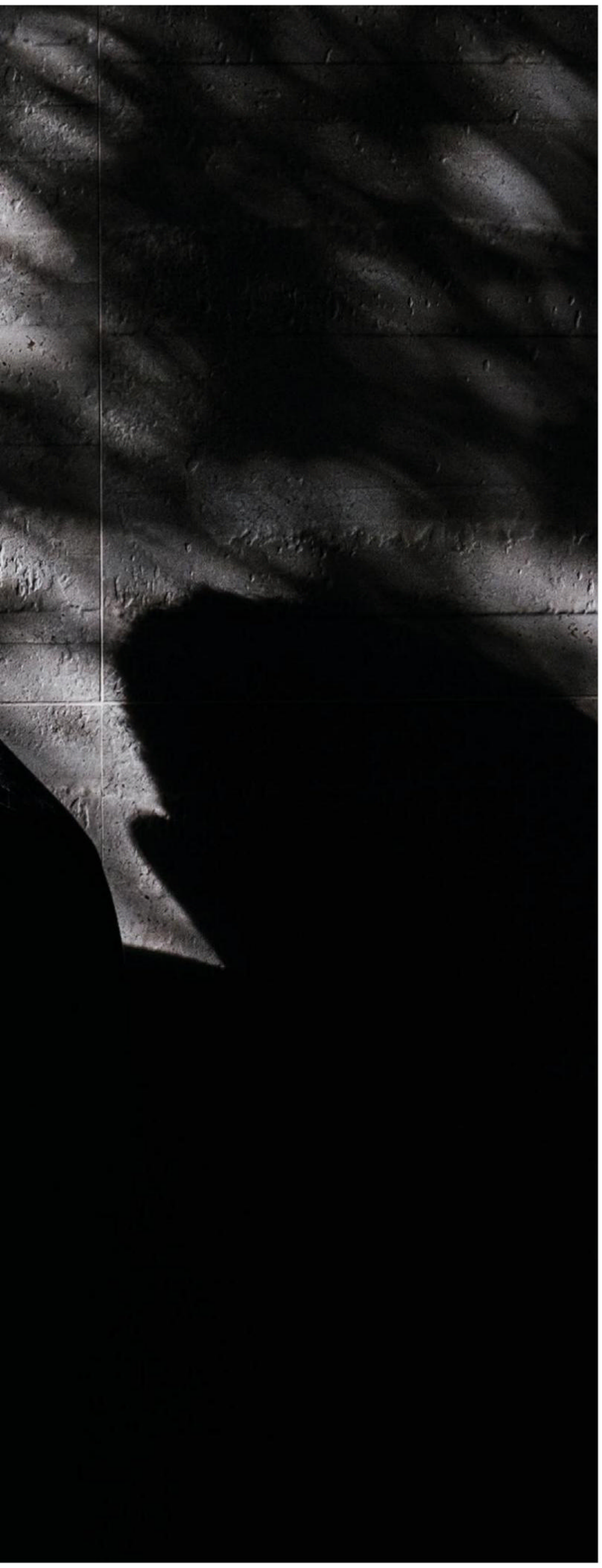
High-octane filmmaker

BY ALIA BHATT

The first time I met S.S. Rajamouli was at the preview of *Baahubali 2*. We were all extremely starstruck. And even while I was watching the movie, I was like, Oh my God, what a dream it would be to work with this director. Lo and behold, the dream came true.

Being directed by him in *RRR* was like going to school all over again. He knows the audience he's serving. He knows what beats to hit, what turns to take. I call him the master storyteller, because he genuinely

PHOTOGRAPH BY BETHANY MOLLENKOF

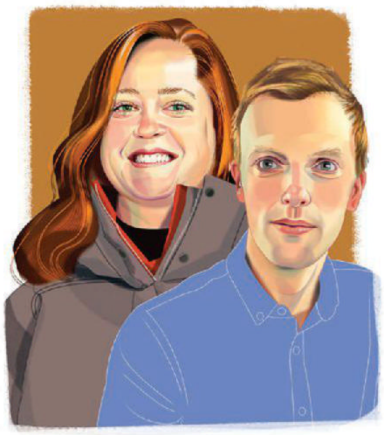


loves the flair and abandon of stories. And he brings us together. India is a massive country with diverse demographics, tastes, and culture. But he gets that—and he unites us through his movies.

I once asked him for advice on acting. He said, "Whatever choice you make, just do that with love. Because even if the film doesn't work, the audience will see love in your eyes for what you're doing."

Bhatt is an actor

RIVERA: HILARY SWIFT; SCHMIDT: COURTESY BRITNEY SCHMIDT; DAVIS: EMILY NEWTON—BRITISH ANTARCTIC SURVEY; ZENG: QILAI SHEN—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES



Britney Schmidt and Peter Davis

GLACIER FORECASTERS

By Aryn Baker

If the Florida-size Thwaites Glacier should crumble into the Antarctic Ocean as the planet warms, it could mean a global sea-level rise of up to 2 ft., enough to wipe out many coastal cities. A major Antarctic field campaign spearheaded by Britney Schmidt of Cornell University and Peter Davis of the British Antarctic Survey offers essential insight into the consequential, and unstable, glacier. Using a hot-water drill and a camera-enabled underwater robot, they were able to look at the glacier's underside to better understand how, and how fast, it was melting. Their research, published in *Nature* in February, revealed troubling footage of the glacier melting from the bottom up, and a more nuanced view of glacier de-formation. "When you don't understand how a process is happening, you can't hope to forecast it," says Schmidt. "Observing Thwaites in detail gives us a chance to make better choices for our future based on what we know is happening today."

Baker is TIME's senior climate correspondent

Robin Zeng

FUELING A BATTERY REVOLUTION

By Charlie Campbell

Making transportation more sustainable will require a collective, global effort, though Zeng Yuqun—otherwise known as Robin Zeng—will play a more significant role in decarbonization than most. Zeng is the founder of Contemporary Amperex Technology (CATL), the world's top provider of electric-vehicle batteries with 37% of the global market, supplying automakers including Tesla, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, and Ford. The $142 billion firm, headquartered in Zeng's hometown of Ningde in China's southern Fujian province, boasts 13 production plants globally and saw revenue almost double year over year to $4.4 billion in 2022. While environmentalists have raised concerns over CATL's ballooning mining interests, Zeng's track record of reducing the cost of established technology while pioneering the next breakthrough—such as sodium-based alternatives to the battery staple lithium—is helping to power the global push for EVs, propelling his personal wealth to some $32.2 billion. Zeng has said, "Innovation is in the genes of CATL."

Campbell is a TIME correspondent

Margaret Mitchell

AI'S CONSCIENCE

By Billy Perrigo

Most AI discourse takes a distinctly utopian or dystopian view of the future. Margaret Mitchell, one of the leading figures in AI ethics, subscribes to a third camp: that AI is not as powerful as many people claim, and that talk of its hastening the end of the world actually (if perversely) helps the companies promoting it. In 2020, Mitchell co-authored an influential paper that argued AIs like ChatGPT are little more than high-powered autocomplete tools, which often result in the further entrenchment of societal inequality. Google fired Mitchell and her co-author Timnit Gebru in the fallout from that paper's publication. Now Mitchell is the chief AI ethics scientist at Hugging Face, an open-source AI platform where independent researchers—not just the world's biggest AI companies—can build and launch AI tools. On this potentially risky new frontier, Mitchell is pioneering new forms of AI guardrails, at the same time as acting as a leading critic of unaccountable tech power in the AI debate.

Perrigo is a TIME staff writer

MIKAELA SHIFFRIN

All-time great

BY LINDSEY VONN

I started hearing about Mikaela Shiffrin when she was about 13 years old. She was a wunderkind on the mountain. Mikaela's skiing more than lived up to expectations. Having won two Olympic gold medals and five overall World Cup titles, on March 11, Mikaela won her 87th World Cup ski race, surpassing the all-time record of 86, set by

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALESSANDRO TROVATI

LEKI
ATOMIC

MITCHELL: CHONA KASINGER—BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES; SHIFFRIN: AP; MREMA: ANDREJ IVANOV—AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

Most people thought that record would never be broken, and having a female athlete do it is a really big deal. With Serena Williams stepping away from tennis, there's room for another big female global sports superstar, and Mikaela can fill that opportunity. She's really stepped into the spotlight and done a great job moving the needle for our sport.

She's competing against herself at this point—she could reach 100 wins. It's just a matter of how long Mikaela Shiffrin wants to keep at it. The sky's the limit for her.

Vonn is a three-time Olympic-medalist skier

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

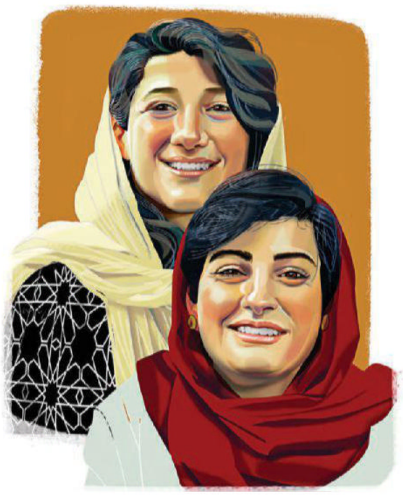
NEGOTIATING FOR NATURE

By Ciara Nugent

In December, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema led the world's countries to one of the decade's biggest environmental wins—an agreement to conserve or restore nature on 30% of the world's lands and waters by 2030. Then the U.N.'s executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mrema shepherded the deal, overcoming vast differences among 195 countries' negotiators. The agreement, which is not legally binding, will in theory help boost finance for developing countries, phase out subsidies that harm nature, and protect the rights of Indigenous communities.

But Mrema's work is far from over. Now the U.N. Environment Programme's deputy executive director, she is co-leading a task force working on standardizing how businesses account for their impact on nature. Experts say the financial framework stands to accelerate efforts to protect the planet.

Nugent is a TIME staff writer



Elaheh Mohammadi and Niloofar Hamedi

DEMONSTRATING COURAGE

By Jason Rezaian

Mahsa Amini—arrested in Tehran and charged with not covering her hair properly—left the police station barely alive. This kind of brutality happens in Iran, but we rarely hear the details. Victims and their families suffer in silence for fear of inviting even more abuse.

This time was different. A reporter named Niloofar Hamedi broke the story, publishing photographs of Amini lying brain-dead in the hospital, and devastated family members embracing in the hall. Elaheh Mohammadi covered the funeral, which doubled as a protest that soon spread across Iran. It was the kind of journalism that earns accolades in any normal society.

Hamedi and Mohammadi have instead been rewarded with excruciating limbo. They were arrested and remain in Evin Prison. The charges—conspiring with the intelligence agencies of foreign powers to undermine Iran's national security—are as farcical as they are severe.

Journalism has been dying a slow death in Iran. Brave domestic reporters are the lone reason its light still flickers. The arrests of Hamedi and Mohammadi—and of nearly 100 other journalists since the protests started—show how far the regime will go to extinguish it.

Rezaian is a Washington Post *writer who was imprisoned by Iran for 544 days*

BELLA HADID

Influential model

BY CHRISTY TURLINGTON BURNS

Plato believed that our world's beauty and goodness were inherently intertwined. Bella Hadid is as good as she is beautiful. In a moment like now, when an industry is struggling to stay culturally relevant and inclusive, putting a single name and face to it would be near impossible. If anyone comes close, it's Bella Hadid. Behind that chiseled face, radiating from within her physical being, shines a lightness and vulnerability that she shares openly with nearly

PHOTOGRAPH BY JULIEN DE ROSA

60 million followers on Instagram. After nearly 10 years in the business, with no signs of slowing down, Bella opened or closed major spring-summer collections everywhere from New York City to Paris. Within this new generation that has limitless potential to create positive change in the world, Bella holds unique power. I am rooting for her, for the possibilities that lie ahead, and for all that is good and beautiful.

Turlington Burns is the founder of Every Mother Counts

MOHAMMADI AND HAMEDI: CHRISTINA ASSI—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; HADID: AFP/GETTY IMAGES; ALTMAN: JASON REDMOND—AFP/GETTY IMAGES; REYNOLDS: JHU/APL

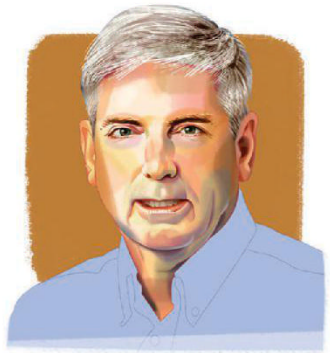
SAM ALTMAN

Accelerating AI

BY BRIAN CHESKY

When I met Sam Altman in 2008, what stood out to me most wasn't just that he was a brilliant technologist—he was, at his core, a humanist. Sam foresaw that the exponential curve of technological progress would culminate in the most powerful tool ever created: artificial general intelligence (AGI). He saw a tool that could do immense good but, in the wrong hands, could be a destructive weapon. Sam co-founded OpenAI to responsibly bring AGI to the world. Initially, he established OpenAI as a nonprofit. When he couldn't raise enough money as a nonprofit, he structured the company as a capped-profit model, forgoing ownership. OpenAI went on to develop ChatGPT, a revolutionary tool, launched in November, that I used to edit this very piece. If anyone knows where this is going, it's Sam. But Sam also knows that he doesn't have all the answers. He often says, "What do you think? Maybe I'm wrong?" Thank God someone with so much power has so much humility.

Chesky is CEO and co-founder of Airbnb



Edward Reynolds

PROTECTING OUR PLANET

By Jeffrey Kluger

Earth lives in a shooting gallery. By astronomers' count, there are tens of thousands of asteroids flying in the vicinity of our planet that could cause devastation if they struck us. Last fall, Ed Reynolds did something to make us all a lot safer. A program manager at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), Reynolds served as project manager of NASA's and APL's Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART). On Sept. 26, 2022, Reynolds oversaw the deliberate collision of a small spacecraft with the asteroid Dimorphos. The goal: to see if the impact could slow the asteroid's speed by just over a minute, in a test of whether it would be possible to deflect a similar piece of space ordnance that was heading for Earth. The result: the orbit was slowed by a whopping 33 minutes—vastly exceeding expectations. "DART is the very start of our very first planetary defense system," Reynolds says. "We're in a much better place than we were before the mission."

Kluger is a TIME editor at large

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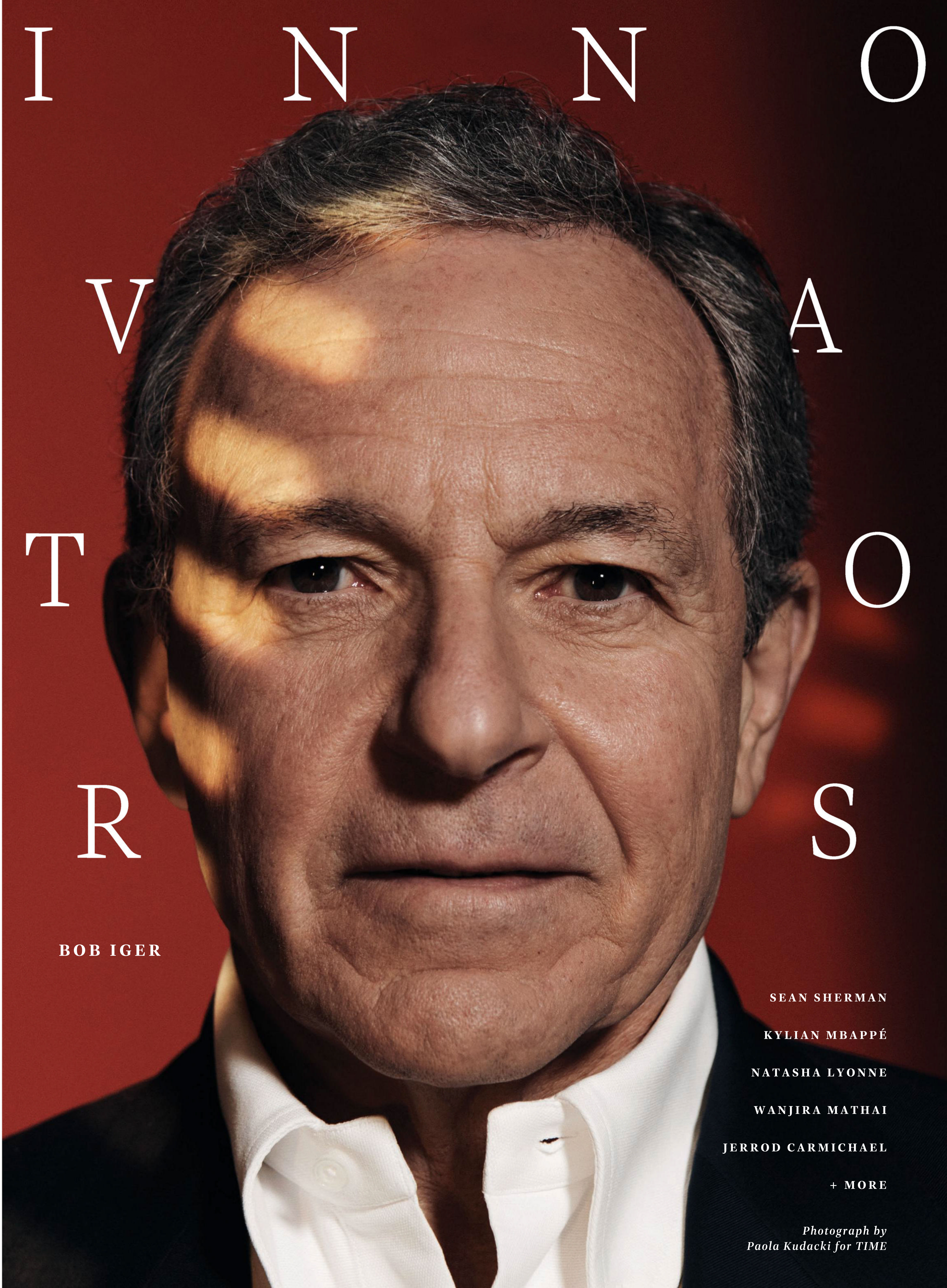
INNOVATORS



BOB IGER

SEAN SHERMAN

KYLIAN MBAPPÉ

NATASHA LYONNE

WANJIRA MATHAI

JERROD CARMICHAEL

+ MORE

Photograph by
Paola Kudacki for TIME

BOB IGER

Steering storytelling

BY MARY BARRA

For 100 years, the Walt Disney Co. has entertained, informed, and inspired people around the globe through the power of unparalleled storytelling. Bob Iger has guided the company to success for nearly two decades and is one of the best leaders I know.

There's a reason Bob remains one of the world's most admired CEOs. He has led landmark acquisitions, championed culture-defining films, launched innovative distribution platforms, and delivered strong financial results, all while never forgetting the people—the employees and the fans—who make it all possible. His return as CEO in 2022 ushered in a new era of transformation and creative excellence for the most magical company on earth.

His authenticity and pragmatism set him apart. "True authority and true leadership comes from knowing who you are and not pretending to be anything else," he said. I've personally learned so much from his leadership.

Barra is the CEO of GM and is on Disney's board of directors

Andrea Kritcher

BREAKTHROUGH SCIENTIST

By Alejandro de la Garza

Nuclear fusion could provide limitless clean energy—if scientists can master the tricky physics of smashing hydrogen atoms together. After an August 2021 experiment at the National Ignition Facility in Livermore, Calif., just barely failed to generate more energy than was put into it, the facility's lead laser engineer approached Andrea Kritcher, the principal experimental designer. The engineers had managed to squeeze a bit more energy out of the gigantic lasers that the facility uses to spark the reaction, and it was up to Kritcher to figure out how to use those improvements in service of a dream of generating unlimited, emission-free power. After more work, Kritcher's insights helped bring about the first-ever controlled fusion ignition in December 2022, a holy grail in physics research that had eluded scientists for decades, and another step on the road to fusion power. Her work is one more example in decades of passionate research from hundreds of scientists, engineers, and technicians that made the fusion breakthrough possible.

de la Garza is a TIME staff writer

KRITCHER: BLAISE DOUROS—LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY; MBAPPÉ: THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX

Monica Simpson

FIGHTING FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

By Stacey Abrams

The devastation of the *Dobbs* decision, which took away the constitutional right to an abortion, came as a shock for millions last summer, but not Monica Simpson. She was ready. Lack of access to reproductive care—to reproductive justice—has been a fact of life in the South for generations. Yet Monica's groundbreaking leadership transmuted these long-standing egregious attacks into effective organizing, and the attempted diminution of Black women's lives into a celebration of our strength and a demand for equality for all. Through the advocacy organization SisterSong, Monica has delivered an array of creative, discomfiting, and brilliant programs to reset the language of reproductive rights. As state after state hurries to destroy a woman's right to choose, Monica is proof of a woman's right to lead. We daughters of the South and those of good conscience are grateful for her sophistication, proud of her irreverence for tradition, and indebted to her righteousness. And we are a better nation for her work.

Abrams is an author, voting-rights activist, and a former Democratic minority leader for the Georgia house of representatives

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID WALTER BANKS

Catherine Coleman Flowers

EXPOSING INEQUALITY

By Bryan Stevenson

The fertile soil of Alabama's Black Belt has witnessed decades of human suffering—slavery, sharecropping, segregation, and poverty have thrived on these lands. But the region also gave birth to some of the most determined activists the nation has known. Catherine Coleman Flowers is heir to this legacy. A child of "bloody" Lowndes County, between Selma and Montgomery, she is at the center of the quest for environmental justice in America. Catherine's fight to expose the "dirty secret" of systemic neglect across the U.S. in places like Lowndes County, where more than 40% of the majority-Black residents lack access to clean sanitation, has persuaded environmentalists and policymakers to engage more directly with the poor and people of color. In August 2022, in part because of Catherine's work, the Biden Administration chose Lowndes as the place to announce the EPA would devote $50 billion to wastewater issues with a focus on underserved communities. She has compelled leaders to address a crisis aggravated by bigotry and poverty, all while keeping her feet firmly planted in the soil of her homeland.

Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and the author of Just Mercy

JERROD CARMICHAEL

Cerebral stand-up

BY TIFFANY HADDISH

The best aspect of my relationship with Jerrod Carmichael is that I never have to bite my tongue around him. When I first met him at the Laugh Factory in Los Angeles over a decade ago, I went up to him the moment he got offstage and told him how talented he was. All these years later, I'm glad I'm not the only one who gets to see his greatness. His comedic style stands out because he's cerebral and puts on these intimate sets, like audiences saw in *Rothaniel,*

PHOTOGRAPH BY MAMADI DOUMBOUYA

where he works to push the culture forward. It's refreshing.

He's the same way offstage. When we get together, we talk about things like human behavior and animals. He's given me some of the sagest advice I've ever received. For that and our many years as friends, I'm forever grateful. Jerrod has the talent to become a legendary comedian, but he's already a legend in my heart.

Haddish is an actor, comedian, and best-selling author

FLOWERS: CHARITY RACHELLE FOR TIME; LYONNE: JAMIE MCCARTHY—GETTY IMAGES; FIELDER: ALLYSON RIGGS—HBO

NATASHA LYONNE

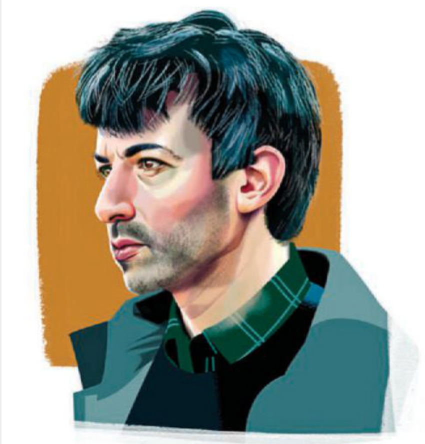
Magnetic performer

BY TAIKA WAITITI

I first met Natasha Lyonne at a mutual friend's house after an awards show, where she convinced me she'd won a DGA award for directing. She continued this bullsh-t for about an hour, which either makes her a brilliant liar, or me stupid. It's definitely a bit of both, but the more you get to know her, the more you realize that spinning tales and telling stories is in her blood. I'm always struck by her confidence, the way she owns and commands whatever space she's in, and how she lures the crowd in close where she can toy with them. Of course that's something that also permeates her work. .

Natasha is always the coolest person in the room. It's not the hair, it's not the voice ... well maybe it's a little bit of the hair and the voice, but mainly she exudes that rare magnetism of old Hollywood where you're immediately drawn to her corner of the room. And she always has her corner. And it's a good corner to be in.

Waititi is a filmmaker and Oscar-winning writer



Nathan Fielder

CHARACTER STUDY

By Emma Stone

Nathan Fielder finds society fascinating—more than a comedian, he's an observer of human behavior. In his shows like *Nathan for You* and *The Rehearsal,* he mines the absurdities of how people relate to one another and how he relates to them, and it all makes you think, laugh, then think some more. There's no one like him, which is something people say about their friends, but it's especially true of Nathan. His work stays with you.

On our new show *The Curse,* I watched him move fluidly between directing, writing, acting, and producing, all while editing *The Rehearsal.* It was a staggering feat. Working with him as a director is fantastic because he's obsessively detail-oriented, but never loses sight of the big picture. And he's a truly amazing actor. He could burst into tears or a fit of rage out of nowhere, and it was stunning because it all felt so honest.

But our relationship isn't super gushy, so please don't tell Nathan I said any of this.

Stone is an Oscar-winning actor

Wanjira Mathai

RESTORING OUR WORLD

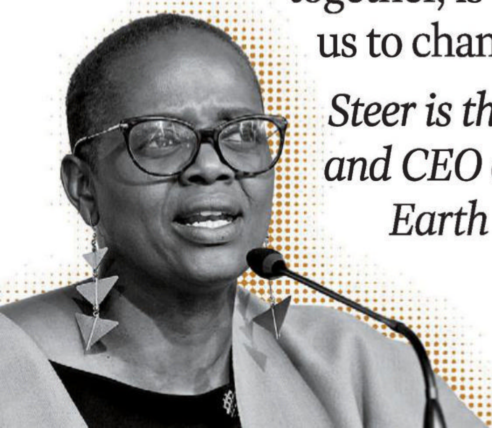
By Andrew Steer

Wanjira Mathai fights for justice and the future of Africa. Her weapons are sharp analysis, a love for people, irresistible persuasion, and a huge smile that makes it impossible to say no.

For over a decade, I have watched Wanjira work her magic in rural communities and international halls of power alike. Throughout she has focused on restoration—of land, livelihoods, and communities. As a managing director at the World Resources Institute and chief Africa adviser to the Bezos Earth Fund, she is shaping NGO and philanthropic work on the continent, directing attention, research, and funding to helping the most climate-vulnerable places and communities. She has led the iconic Green Belt Movement, pioneered investment in women entrepreneurs in renewable energy, and is driving a movement to restore 100 million hectares of African land.

How does she do it? Wanjira would say the secret may lie in the African concept of *ubuntu*. Our shared humanity, working together, is what allows us to change the world.

Steer is the president and CEO of the Bezos Earth Fund



SEAN SHERMAN

Tastemaker

BY PADMA LAKSHMI

When we were filming the Indigenous episode in our first season of *Taste the Nation With Padma Lakshmi*, everyone we interviewed within the community named Sean Sherman as the one to speak to. Sean has had a major impact on revitalizing and revolutionizing Native cuisine in the U.S., including through his Minneapolis-based restaurant Owamni, which has expanded with the work of his nonprofit, North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems. He has galvanized a new generation of Indigenous chefs to honor their culinary

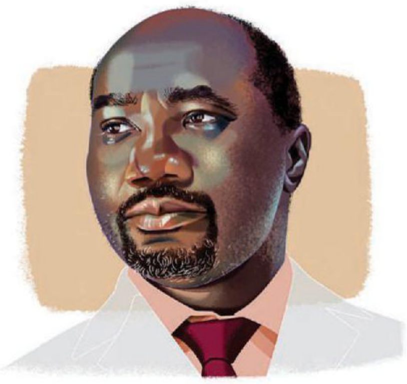
PHOTOGRAPH BY MARCUS NILSSON

heritage and to decolonize their diets.

Through Sean's work, which is truly about so much more than food, he brings a deep sense of pride and identity to the Indigenous community, the importance of which can't be overstated. Sean has inspired many people, myself included, to become more curious about Native communities, the beauty of their dishes, and the importance of eating harmoniously with Mother Nature. He's a powerful force of good in the culinary world and beyond.

Lakshmi is an Emmy-nominated producer and host

MATHAI: NARIMAN EL-MOFTY—AP; SHERMAN: THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; OGOINA: KC NWAKALOR—THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX; SWIATEK: ROBERT PRANGE—GETTY IMAGES



Dimie Ogoina

SOUNDING THE ALARM

By Anne Rimoin

In 2017, when Dr. Dimie Ogoina sounded the alarm on a new presentation of Mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) that he was seeing in his home country of Nigeria, the world wasn't ready to listen. Recognizing the importance and potential implications for global spread, he persisted, documenting the potential for sexual transmission of Mpox and publishing the data in high-impact scientific journals. As the global Mpox outbreak unfolded in 2022, Dimie's insights became critically important to developing better strategies to prevent and control outbreaks.

Dimie is also a passionate champion for global health equity. He has often made the point that Mpox is not a new disease and that had the world paid attention sooner, we could have avoided a global outbreak. It is this drive that has led Dimie to make significant contributions to the field through his advocacy, leadership, and research.

Rimoin is a professor of epidemiology at UCLA and has been studying Mpox and other emerging diseases in Central Africa for two decades

Iga Swiatek

TOP COMPETITOR

By Mikaela Shiffrin

When Iga Swiatek plays tennis, three things come to mind: beauty, power, and truth. Throughout her rise to the top of tennis—and the top of sport—Iga has shown vulnerability and courage. She strives relentlessly to improve her game. She gives credit to those who have supported her, without discounting her own skills and work. She has advocated for mental health and supported Ukrainians in their fight to protect their home. As an athlete, and more importantly as a human, she embodies the kind of confidence that everyone should emulate—the confidence of action over mere talk.

To rise to the top of tennis with the limited resources she had coming from Poland is remarkable. She has ignited a nation and given the next generation a reason to believe they can also achieve something incredible. She reminds us all that it's OK to feel disappointment—and it's also OK to feel proud of ourselves.

When Iga walks out on the court, she puts her eye on the ball, and she doesn't let it stray.

Shiffrin is an alpine skiing champion who holds the record for most World Cup wins

Kate Orff

RESILIENT BY DESIGN

By Jeanne Gang

Historically, landscape architecture was concerned with the composition of private gardens, but Kate Orff is a landscape architect who's never been hemmed in by garden walls—seeking instead to liberate landscape to do nothing less than repair our warming planet through design. In fact, to call her a landscape architect seems insufficient, since it implies she works only on land. Not true. For 10 years, Kate has been leading Living Breakwaters, an ongoing project to reduce the risks that storm surges pose to the coast of Staten Island and revive its living ecosystem at the same time. This spring they will complete work on five of the eight breakwaters, including the first with reef ridges. Her collaborators include engineers and architects, as well as nonhuman creatures like oysters, all working together to help regenerate a thriving habitat. As with Rachel Carson, Kate's ecological vision contains a larger environmental ethic to help people protect biodiversity and adapt to climate change. By rallying communities to participate in her restorative, nature-based projects, she shows us how landscape can also help repair a fractured society.

Gang is an architect

Kylian Mbappé

LIGHTNING-FAST SCORER

By Vivienne Walt

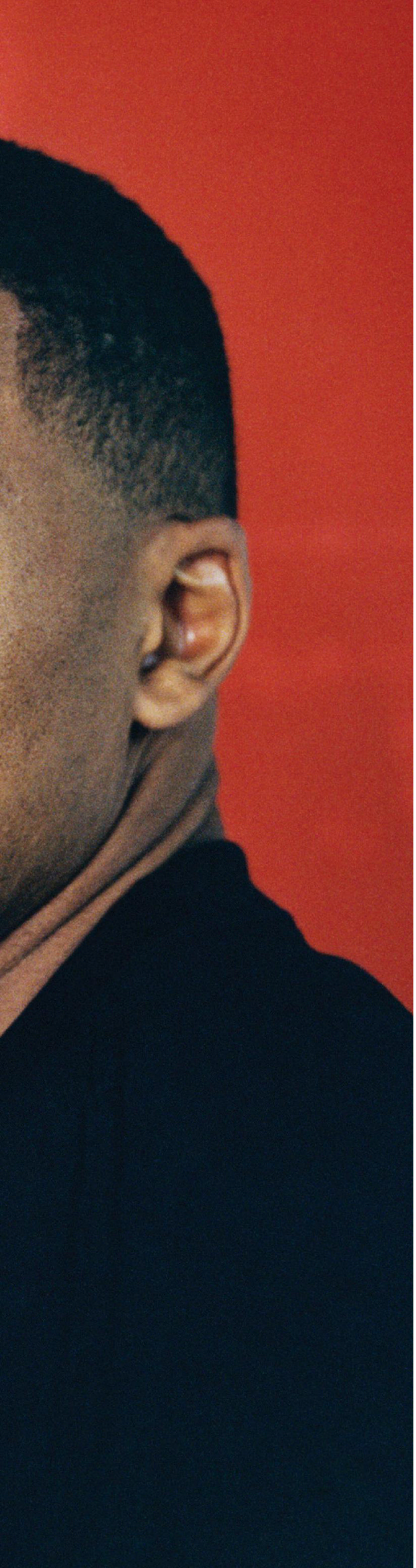
France's newly minted soccer captain is not one to hide his emotions. In December, two days before his 24th birthday, the world watched as he slumped devastated on the pitch in Qatar, having scored three goals, but missing out on his second World Cup victory. Crouching awkwardly beside him in comfort was French President Emmanuel Macron.

Like Kylian Mbappé's devout fans, Macron knows he is more than a soccer genius—he is a living rags-to-riches fairy tale. A kid raised in Paris' tough suburbs, Mbappé rocketed to global fame by winning the 2018 World Cup at just 19.

When Mbappé weighed a nine-figure transfer from Paris Saint-Germain to Real Madrid last year, Macron called and begged him to stay for the sake of France. Mbappé stayed at PSG. Despite his incredible celebrity, Mbappé has three home truths from his mom that keep him grounded: "Respect, humility, lucidity." He has a realistic view of fame, and even at 19 he knew it can be fickle. "We can be the best, and in four years, you are forgotten," he told me then. No chance of that, Kylian.

Walt is a TIME correspondent in Paris

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSEFINA SANTOS



Sarah Kate Ellis

LGBTQ RIGHTS CHAMPION

By Patricia Arquette

As president and CEO of GLAAD, Sarah Kate Ellis is one of the most important voices in modern politics, full stop. She has long fought to ensure that people have equal rights under the law. In a position like hers, it's not enough to just be smart, well-meaning, or a hard worker. She has that star quality, that X factor that makes people listen when she speaks.

Amid the introduction of more than 450 anti-LGBTQ bills in 2023 alone, Sarah Kate has made clear how this type of legislation negatively impacts the LGBTQ community and causes violence. After the mass shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs last year, I saw her educate people through the press about how hateful rhetoric has led to a sharp increase in anti-LGBTQ crimes.

LGBTQ people have always been treated by some as different and fearsome—and Sarah Kate, through her work and her beautiful example, has long stood up for what's right.

Arquette is an Oscar-winning actor

ORFF: THOMAS PRIOR; ELLIS: STHANLEE B. MIRADOR—SIPA USA/AP; MIYAZAKI: COURTESY FROMSOFTWARE

Hidetaka Miyazaki

GAME-CHANGING CREATOR

By Neil Druckmann

The first time I played one of Hidetaka Miyazaki's games, I was miserable. I kept dying on the first enemy over and over again. But when I slowed down my approach, paying attention to the details, it all of a sudden clicked. I managed to defeat the enemy and advance further into the game. I earned my progress and felt a sort of rush! And as I moved forward in the game, I was much more deliberate, careful in how I explored this world. And in return the world rewarded me with tension, beauty, and surprises.

That's why *Elden Ring*—his massively popular 2022 hit—is a great ambassador for video games and the unique feelings they can effect in the player, feelings that a passive medium like TV can never re-create. Miyazaki's games make the player feel accomplished and smart—and it's all thanks to his and his team's uncompromising approach. He refuses to overexplain the mechanics or the lore, but rather puts his trust in the player to figure it out on their own.

Druckmann, a video-game developer, co-created The Last of Us *game and television series*

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ICONS

JENNIFER COOLIDGE

PEDRO PASCAL

SALMAN RUSHDIE

KING CHARLES III

BRITTNEY GRINER

SHAH RUKH KHAN

+ MORE

Photograph by Paola Kudacki for TIME

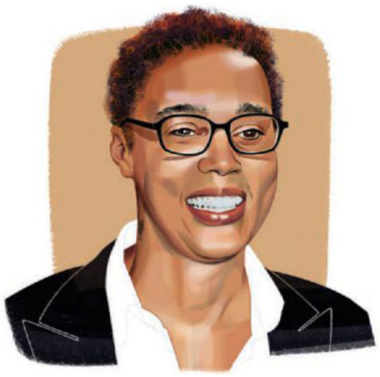
JENNIFER COOLIDGE

Fascinating and fabulous

BY MIA FARROW

"Let's make a video where you and I are beating the sh-t out of each other," Jennifer Coolidge texted me one night a few months ago. "…Does that seem too desperate???" The proposal for catching a filmmaker's eye, like everything Jennifer says and does, was one-of-a-kind and irresistible. We met last year, while shooting the Netflix series *The Watcher* on a cavernous soundstage in Brooklyn. I asked the woman beside me in the makeup room, who without her usual glamorous styling looked for all the world like a sweet-faced kid, if she was Jennifer Coolidge, whose work I've long admired. She said she was, and I spent a rainy, slow-paced day sitting alongside her at the edge of set, chatting and laughing and just delighting in her company. When she left for Sicily to make the second season of *The White Lotus,* I missed her. She returned, of course, to a tsunami of prestigious awards recognizing her mesmerizing performance. Adoration for Jennifer, initially led by discerning cinephiles and, of course, the gay community, was now everywhere. Impressions of her, and merchandise ranging from ceremonial candles to T-shirts bearing her face, proliferated. So many of the qualities that have made everyone fall in love with her are outside of what is mainstream or expected: her eccentric mannerisms, hilarious improvisations, and, most of all, aching vulnerability. She is uncompromisingly, exquisitely herself. Jennifer's honesty and kindness make her a friend anyone would be lucky to have. I've got tufts of fake hair and ketchup to stand in for blood at the ready. Who wouldn't want to be beat up by Jennifer Coolidge? She's a national treasure.

Farrow is an actor



Brittney Griner

SHOW OF STRENGTH

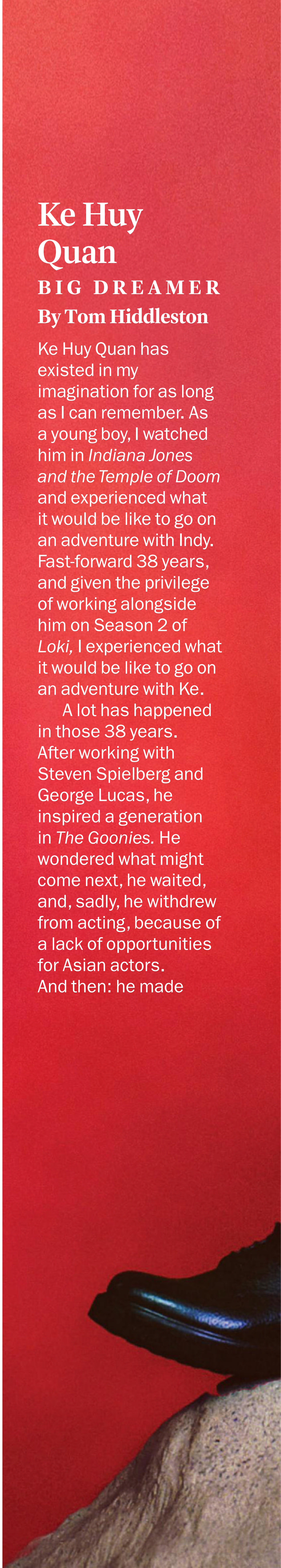
By Sue Bird

Brittney Griner's story represents so much. First off, it's about resilience. BG spent nearly 10 months in Russian prison, wrongfully detained, but never lost hope or her sense of humor. She was BG, through and through, throughout her horrible ordeal.

But underneath this story of inner strength is so much more. BG's wrongful detainment brought attention to issues like the inequities in pay for women athletes, which sometimes compel us to put ourselves in dangerous situations to maximize our financial worth. It brought to light the dozens of Americans wrongfully detained around the world, and BG continues to use her platform as a sports superstar to advocate for their release. It speaks to the power of the women who rallied around her—Black women, members of the LGBTQ+ community, our WNBA community—and who made certain her name was never forgotten, that she'd return home. These are the women who get sh-t done.

Knowing BG, she'll focus on the joy and share it generously. She's back, and I can't wait to hug her when I see her. #WeAreBG

Bird is a five-time Olympic-gold-medalist basketball player



Ke Huy Quan

BIG DREAMER

By Tom Hiddleston

Ke Huy Quan has existed in my imagination for as long as I can remember. As a young boy, I watched him in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and experienced what it would be like to go on an adventure with Indy. Fast-forward 38 years, and given the privilege of working alongside him on Season 2 of *Loki,* I experienced what it would be like to go on an adventure with Ke.

A lot has happened in those 38 years. After working with Steven Spielberg and George Lucas, he inspired a generation in *The Goonies.* He wondered what might come next, he waited, and, sadly, he withdrew from acting, because of a lack of opportunities for Asian actors. And then: he made a triumphant return with his soul-stirring, multiverse-jumping, Oscar-winning performance as Waymond in *Everything Everywhere All at Once.*

Waymond's extraordinary sweetness, his kindness, and his patience all belong to Ke. His positivity—his fight to keep the dream alive—is the most profound kind of spiritual strength. These qualities are his unique gifts. At last, the world has recognized them.

Hiddleston is an actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY JUSTIN J WEE

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Haluk Levent

COMING TO TURKEY'S AID

By Elif Shafak

"Ses yok." No sound. Two words written on mounds of concrete after massive earthquakes reduced thousands of buildings to rubble in Turkey and Syria in February.

If these words are the symbol of hopelessness, the name Haluk Levent is the symbol of hope. The rock star has been tirelessly doing charity work through his nonprofit Ahbap. Following the disaster, when minutes meant the difference between life and death, and the Turkish government proved terribly incompetent, Ahbap was already working on the ground, saving lives. Being in the public eye in Turkey is incredibly hard, but Levent is much loved and widely trusted. He is principled. Transparent. He lists and publishes in detail where every donation goes and how many families receive help.

Haluk Levent is a bridge builder, a healer, and an artist with a big heart. He not only inspires an entire society, but also shows how a single individual can make a difference in the face of catastrophic tragedies. In an increasingly atomized world, he has made people feel like they have a friend—someone who truly cares for them and hears their silenced voices.

Shafak is a novelist, most recently of The Island of Missing Trees

Shannon Watts

GUN-SAFETY CRUSADER

By Lucy McBath

Shannon Watts has taken up the mantle of gun-safety advocacy with the hope that in a generation, this uniquely American crisis will be an appalling relic of the past.

In 2012, after 20 first-graders had been gunned down in their school, she started Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. It is now one of the largest grassroots organizations in the nation. After my son, Jordan, was murdered at 17 by an act of gun violence, it was Shannon who encouraged me to share my story. She knows the power that a mother's love has to change a devastating status quo.

Now, change is happening. For the first time in nearly three decades, a meaningful gun-safety package became law, and now more than a hundred gun-safety candidates have been elected.

It is an honor to work alongside her as we create a safer country for future generations and for the American people.

McBath, a Democrat, is a U.S. Representative for Georgia and a former spokesperson for Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety

DON'T LOOK AWAY.
Pass gun safety laws now.

KING CHARLES III

Monarch for a new age

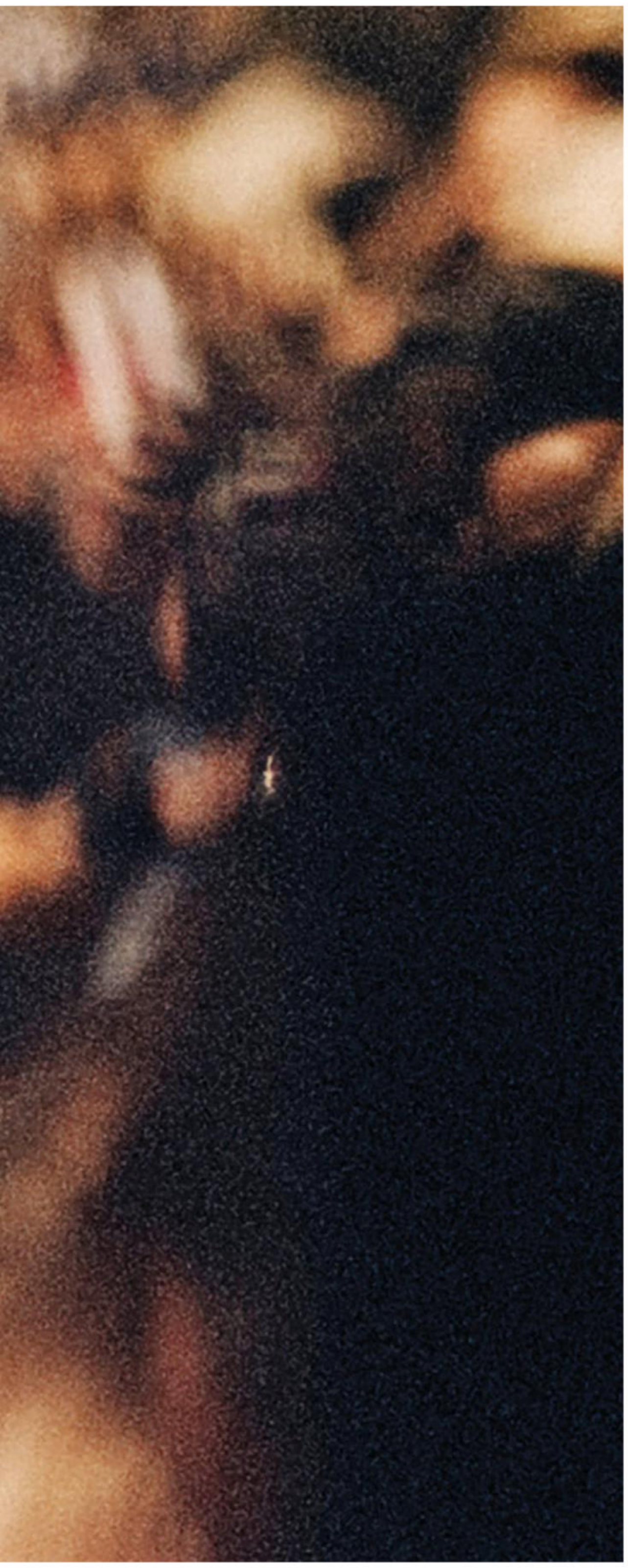
BY EDWARD ENNINFUL

Growing up on a council estate in West London, the world of royalty was one I didn't pay much mind to. What would that have to do with young Black boys in Ladbroke Grove? Much more than I realized, it turned out. As the quiet and fastidious work of the Prince's Trust, a charity set up by the then Prince of Wales, began to put our friends and family into steady employment, its outreach programs inspired many of us and instilled confidence. I didn't realize then just how close our now King was to all of this.

He didn't have to do any of it. He could've let his privilege shield him from the realities of our hardship in a time when these were not a cause célèbre. But he always met us with an open mind and a listening ear.

Over the past decade, I've had the privilege of getting to know King Charles III better—and in 2021, I became a global ambassador of the Prince's Trust.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBBIE LAWRENCE FOR TIME



As a man, the King is not always who people expect him to be. He is charming, funny, socially confident, with a kindness that always seeks to put others at ease. His love for the environment is well documented, but his love for his subjects burns even brighter. The monarchy is not perfect, but in Charles we have a King who understands both tradition and what it takes to evolve with the times. It is a delicate balance and a rare ability. I am excited to see him carry his passions with him into a whole new era.

Enninful, OBE, is the British Vogue *editor in chief and* Vogue *European editorial director*

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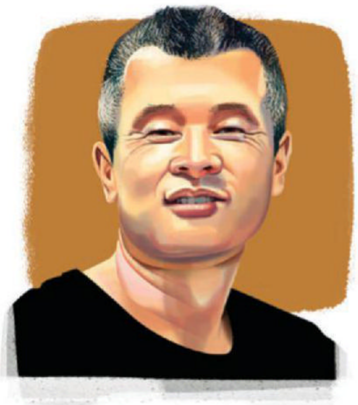


Peng Lifa

COURAGE IN DISSENT

By Ai Weiwei

In October 2022, Peng Lifa unfurled two political banners in central Beijing calling on the Chinese government to put an end to the country's restrictive zero-COVID policy and one-party authoritarianism. Protests erupted throughout China using blank sheets of A4 paper as a symbol of dissent. As of today, Peng Lifa and many of the protesters involved have been detained or have disappeared from public view. Their personal courage and resistance under authoritarian rule represent a pivotal moment that must be remembered by history. It is only with such resistance that people may keep the flame of belief in truth and justice burning in their hearts. In the current era, the qualities of free expression and resistance, which come at a price, are exceedingly rare to find. Unfortunately, in most cases, what we consider to be expression lacks meaning. The true meaning of expression emerges only when individuals like Peng Lifa are willing to make sacrifices and pay the price.

Ai is an artist and activist

Tracie D. Hall

DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO READ

By Min Jin Lee

Tracie D. Hall, the first African American woman to lead the American Library Association since its inception in 1876, has spent much of her professional life serving the public good.

As a librarian, she has sought to have the greatest possible diversity of books for the greatest possible public readership. She has served in and fought for public libraries—what Andrew Carnegie called the "palaces for the people."

With the resurgence of censorship and the rise of politicized redacting of history and curricula, Hall and librarians across the country have had to battle valiantly for a reader's right to read, learn, and grow. Practicing her belief that "free people read freely," Hall has led efforts against censorship that demonstrate her brave stewardship of the bulwark of democracy, our public library. Hall has labored to protect the democratic ideals of freedom of thought, assembly, press, public education, dissent, speech, and above all the freedom to imagine a liberated world through the word.

Hall's life's work teaches each of us that the love of libraries and books can free us from hatred and lies not just for the present generation but for the liberation of all to come.

Lee is a writer and serves on the boards of PEN America and the Authors Guild

IMARA JONES

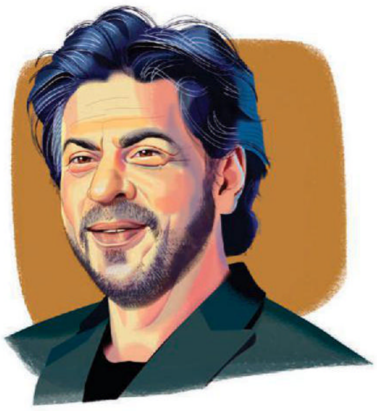
Envisioning a more equal future

BY TOURMALINE

Imara Jones knows that transphobia is a choice, not a default setting. In a world where we are inundated with anti-trans bills and violent rhetoric, Imara Jones offers a vision of the world we deserve. Imara's work on her podcast and media platform, TransLash, takes the media narrative beyond where it usually goes by cultivating our awareness of and desire for Black trans futures. This showcases the power of media and storytelling. Imara illuminates worlds where it's easy to be free; it's easy to be Black and trans and know your value because you're being reflected back by Imara herself—through exploring important policy and issues, and also through fun and joy.

In a moment when anti-trans violence is on the rise and there are those seeking to legislate us out of existence, Imara's work declares loudly and proudly not just that we get to have a future, that our aliveness deserves to extend beyond this moment—but also that it can be pleasure-filled. Imara shows us that our aliveness can and should move from a world of scarcity to one of abundance.

Tourmaline is an artist, filmmaker, writer, and activist



Shah Rukh Khan

BOLLYWOOD'S BIGGEST STAR

By Deepika Padukone

I'll never forget the first time I met Shah Rukh Khan. I had just arrived in Mumbai from Bangalore with one suitcase and a dream. The next thing I knew, I was sitting in his house! I was being considered for a role in a film opposite him.

It's been 16 years since. What makes our relationship special is the love, trust, and respect we have for one another.

Shah Rukh Khan will forever be known as one of the greatest actors of all time. But what truly sets him apart is his mind, his chivalry, his generosity. The list goes on . . .

For someone who has known him intimately and cares for him deeply, 150 words will never do justice to the phenomenon that is Shah Rukh Khan.

Padukone is an actor and the founder of the Live Love Laugh Foundation for mental health

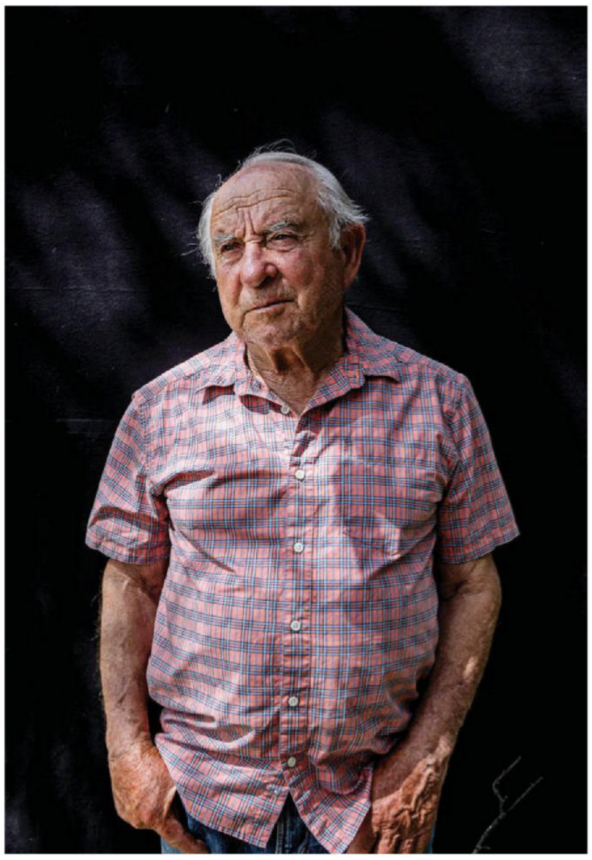
Yvon Chouinard

SHIFTING THE BUSINESS CLIMATE

By Kris Tompkins

I met Yvon Chouinard when I was 15—now I'm 72. I can say that not very much about him has changed during that time. His love of nature is as steadfast as it was then, as is his refusal, all his life, to deviate from his principles. When I was working with him at Patagonia, Yvon didn't care about conventional business wisdom; he cared about creating his ideal of what a great company should be: excellent quality, authentic stories, and focused on "making clothes for all of us"—that is, especially for the hardcore users. He managed to do that. Patagonia is a company that people look up to and marvel at because it is a genuine reflection of who Yvon is. Many people were surprised when he and the family decided to give away the company to defend the planet and combat climate change last year. No one else had ever done anything like it. But Yvon is used to going against the grain. For him, it was just bringing things full circle.

Tompkins is the former CEO of Patagonia and co-founder of Tompkins Conservation



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RowVaughn Wells

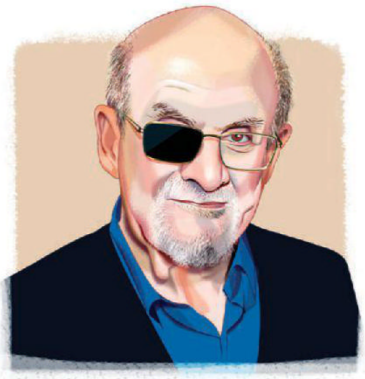
DEMANDING JUSTICE

By Ben Crump

RowVaughn Wells became a figure of national influence in the face of her life's biggest tragedy—losing her son Tyre Nichols after a beating by Memphis police in January 2023. Tyre poignantly cried out for RowVaughn, his loving and caring mother, as he was being brutalized by the officers. That cry shook the conscience of America.

Losing a child is the worst kind of pain that a parent could know, but RowVaughn has continued to demonstrate strength and assert her voice to ensure that her son's story is not forgotten. Her goal is simply to stop these unjustified police killings of unarmed Black men. RowVaughn's strength to purposefully share her grief in the public eye resulted in national recognition from President Biden and his Administration and renewed the calls for police reform on the federal level.

Crump, a civil rights attorney, represents the family of Tyre Nichols



Salman Rushdie

STANDING STRONG

By Bono

Terrorism wants to own and inhabit you, to hijack your day and haunt your night. Salman Rushdie has refused to be terrorized. Outside of his writing, this is the lesson of his life.

I was not surprised the great novelist was able to describe the attack on him on Aug. 12, 2022—as he was speaking about the U.S. as a safe place for exiled writers—with frame-by-frame specificity. Salman didn't miss a detail as he recounted the crisis he had prepared for since 1989. What did surprise me was that he made me laugh. "Really?" he recalled thinking. "After 30 years? Amongst these most kindly, casually dressed readers in Chautauqua, New York?"

For me, rock 'n' roll has always been about liberation. Salman's continued creativity has become a different expression of that same liberation, a defiance and a determination not to be silenced. Of course there was anguish as he told me the story of the attack, but what was clear was that he would not bow. Freedom often loses but is never defeated.

Bono is the lead singer of U2 and a co-founder of ONE and (RED)

WELLS: BRANDON DILL—AP; RUSHDIE: PATRICK MCMULLAN—PMC/GETTY IMAGES; PASCAL: PHOTOGRAPHED FOR WIRED/AUGUST

Pedro Pascal

COSMIC FORCE

By Sarah Paulson

Pedro Pascal is the whole motherf-cking deal. Sorry, no other word will do. And I'm not biased, in spite of my knowing for 30 years what you all are just coming to understand about Pedro—I'm not showing off, just simply lucky to have had his phone number my entire adult life. (And no, I won't give it to you.)

What I will give you is the guarantee that everything you hope he is, HE IS: powerful, soulful, hilarious, goofy, capable of having the deepest conversations, willing to hold your hair back when you're sick, and in possession of the broadest shoulders to lean on. He is no figment—he's real. That's why he has landed so surely in the cosmos, with such shattering force. It isn't actually his Adonis form you're responding to. It's the beauty he carries inside. His interior light burns so bright, it's simply taken some time for your eyes to adjust. But now that you've seen him, you know too. He's the whole motherf-cking deal.

Paulson is an Emmy-winning actor

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER YANG

Sara and Yusra Mardini

BRAVE ADVOCATES

By Cate Blanchett

In 2015, sisters and competitive swimmers Yusra and Sara Mardini fled Syria because of conflict. During the dangerous sea crossing from Turkey to Greece, their dinghy's engine failed. The sisters were among those who jumped into the water to guide the overcrowded boat to safety, saving the lives of all on board.

After seeking asylum in Germany, Yusra began swimming again and was selected for the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team. Now a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, she shares her story with audiences around the world to demonstrate the determination of refugees to achieve their dreams despite facing trauma, hardship, and loss.

Sara returned to Greece to volunteer with a search-and-rescue NGO. There, she was one of 24 aid workers arrested on charges that were widely criticized by human-rights groups and have since been dismissed on procedural grounds. An ongoing investigation shines a global spotlight on the hostility and risks that rescuers can face.

The Swimmers, a 2022 movie inspired by the sisters' powerful story, brought to a mass audience the human reality of what it means to be displaced. That story continues as both Yusra and Sara fiercely advocate for everyone's right to seek safety. Whoever. Wherever. Whenever.

Blanchett is an Oscar-winning actor and a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

PHOTOGRAPH BY LISA KNAUER

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